Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-161
Tuesday
20 August 1991

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FBIS-NES-91-161 *20 August 1991*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Abd-al-Majid Urges Israel To Halt Immigration *[MENA]* 1
Arab Atomic Energy Group Holds Conference *[Tunis Radio]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinians React to Events in Soviet Union 1
Qaddumi Sees Positive Effects *[Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B 20 Aug]* 1
Commentary on Regional Impact *[Algiers VOP]* 1
PLO Military Official Urges 'Arafat Ouster *[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR 19 Aug]* 2
Officials Reject Syrian-Palestinian Delegation *[WAKH]* 3
Relations With Jordan Reportedly Worsening
[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 15 Aug] 3
'Arafat Invited to Libyan River Ceremony *[JANA]* 3
Abu-Sharif on PNC Meeting, U.S. Understanding *[MENA]* 4
PNC Leader Discusses Peace Talks, New Council *[Algiers VOP]* 4
Fatah Appoints New Chief in Lebanon *[Beirut Radio]* 4
Commentary Criticizes New U.S. World Order *[Algiers VOP]* 4
U.S. Wants Arabs To 'Comprehend' Israeli Demands *[Jerusalem AL-SHA'B 13 Aug]* 5
Editorial Blasts Israeli Conference Conditions *[Jerusalem AL-QUDS 14 Aug]* 5
Radio Comments on Israeli Settlement Problem *[Algiers VOP]* 6

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Musa Briefs Mubarak on Soviet Events, Comments *[MENA]* 7
Foreign Ministry Source on Gorbachev's Removal *[MENA]* 7
Yemeni Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit *[MENA]* 7
Mubarak Receives Yemeni Minister *[Cairo Radio]* 7
Yemeni Minister Comments *[MENA]* 7
Musa, Yemeni Minister Talk *[Cairo Radio]* 7
Ali Alatas Arrives in Cairo for Peace Talks *[Jakarta Radio]* 8
Musa, PLO Official Discuss Peace Process *[MENA]* 8
Musa Comments on Meeting With Likud Delegation *[MENA]* 8
Mubarak Said To Give Open Invitation to Shamir *[Jerusalem Radio]* 8
Musa Reportedly To Visit Tel Aviv 'Soon' *[Beirut Radio]* 8
Kuwait Requests Troops Be Left 'Symbolic Force' *[AL-AHALI 14 Aug]* 9

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Lauds Yanayev's 'Brave' Action *[Tripoli Radio]* 9
Sudan's Embassy Welcomes Changes in USSR *[Tripoli Radio]* 9
Paper Says U.S.-Libyan Meeting Slated for Oct *[MENA]* 10
Mediation Between U.S., Libya Stressed *[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 19 Aug]* 10
Egyptian Petroleum Minister Arrives 18 Aug *[JANA]* 10
Festivities Prepared for 'Manmade River' Opening *[JANA]* 10

Sudan

Khalifah Returns to Khartoum After Tour *[SUNA]* 11
Khalifah Outlines Points of Recent Tour *[SUNA]* 11
Khalifah Notes '60,000' Rebels Disarmed *[SUNA]* 12
Troops Reportedly Massacre Zaghawas in Darfur *[London International]* 12

Tunisia

Foreign Ministry Statement on USSR Events *[Tunis Radio]* 13
President Receives al-Qadhdhafi Letter 16 Aug *[JANA]* 13
Algeria's Ibrahimi, PLO's 'Arafat Meet 15 Aug *[APS]* 13

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Statement Urges Security, Stability in USSR *[KUNA]* 14
Army To Blow Up Iraqi Rockets *[KUNA]* 14
More Than 1,000 Thai Workers Return to Positions *[Bangkok Radio]* 14

Oman

Iranian Oil Minister Arrives With Message *[WAKH]* 14
Meets Sultan Qabus *[WAKH]* 14

Qatar

Diplomatic Relations With Nicaragua Established *[WAKH]* 15

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Briefs Government on Soviet Events *[SPA]* 15
King Fahd Receives Iranian President's Message *[IRNA]* 15
Crown Prince Meets Afghan Visitor 18 Aug *[Riyadh Radio]* 15
Exports Increase by 56.5 Percent in 1990 *[Riyadh TV]* 15

IRAQ

Yanayev Message on Future Soviet Security Role *[INA]* 16
AL-JUMHURIYAH Views Soviet Developments *[INA]* 16
Envoy Criticizes UN Resolution, IAEA Inspection *[Vienna DIE PRESSE 19 Aug]* 16
National Assembly Denounces UN Resolutions *[INA]* 17
Assembly Calls on Legislatures To Lift Blockade *[Baghdad Radio]* 17
Papers Comment Further on UN Resolutions *[INA]* 17
U.S. 17-18 Aug Air Activity Protested to UN *[INA]* 18
Assembly Speaker Meets With Jordanian Minister *[INA]* 18
New Methods Urged To Avoid Youth Alientation *[AL-THAWRAH 15 Aug]* 18
Editor Calls for Strengthening Ba'th Party Cells *[AL-THAWRAH 12 Aug]* 18
Editor on Paper's Relationship With Ba'th Party *[AL-THAWRAH 18 Aug]* 19
Opposition Radio on Operations Against Military *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 19
Turkish Paper Cites Kurdish Criticism of PKK *[Istanbul HURRIYET 13 Aug]* 19
Inspection Team Members Said 'Intelligence Men' *[BABIL 11 Aug]* 20
Writer Views Effects of Islamic Awakening *[BABIL 11 Aug]* 21

ISRAEL

Levi Comments on Peace Process, USSR Events *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 22
Netanyahu Interviewed on Soviet Changes, Ties *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Visiting Minister 'Concerned' by USSR Events *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Sources Anxious Over Future of Peace Process *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 23

Qatzav Back; Soviet Officials Arrive 'as Planned' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Urges 'Soft Line' Toward New Leaders *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Interviewed on USSR Situation *[Tel Aviv TV]* 24
Communist Party, MAPAM on Gorbachev Ouster *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Comment on 'Unfolding Drama' in Soviet Union *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Lubrani Denies Meeting Hizballah Leader in Paris *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 19 Aug]* 26
Committee Proposes Labor Platform Changes *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Al-Husayni Possibly Heads Peace Talks Committee *[MA'ARIV 19 Aug]* 26
Cabinet Group Demands Palestinian Indictments *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 26
Shamir Awaits 'More Serious' Egyptian Invitation *[THE JERUSALEM POST 20 Aug]* 26
Official Ministerial Visits With Egypt Scheduled *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 18 Aug]* 27
Israeli Firm To Develop Fire-Control Radar *[HA'ARETZ 19 Aug]* 27
New Civil Defense Building Policy Approved *[MA'ARIV 19 Aug]* 27
Violence in Territories on 18 Aug Reported *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 19 Aug]* 28
Settler Sentenced to 4 Months Community Service *[THE JERUSALEM POST 20 Aug]* 28
SLA Soldier Wounded in Explosion 17 Aug *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28

JORDAN

USSR Developments, PLO Representation Viewed *[WAKH]* 29
Information Minister Reacts to Soviet 'Affair' *[PETRA-JNA]* 29
Soviet Leadership Applauded for 'Brave Act' *[AL-RA'Y 20 Aug]* 29
AL-DUSTUR: No 'Regret' for Gorbachev *[20 Aug]* 30
Kuwaiti 'Crimes' Possibly Give Rise to Terrorism *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 15 Aug]* 30
Finance Minister Lobbying To Reschedule Debts *[AL-DUSTUR 15 Aug]* 31
Planning Minister Leaves for World Bank Talks *[Amman Radio]* 31
Foreign Currency Rules Eased To Promote Exports *[Amman Radio]* 31
Part of Swiss Government Loan Converted to Grant *[PETRA-JNA]* 31

LEBANON

Buwayz Contacts Soviet Envoy To Voice 'Concern' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 32
Soviet Envoy 'Surprised' by Developments at Home *[Beirut Radio]* 32
Foreign Minister Comments on Soviet Developments *[Beirut Radio]* 32
Soviet Coup, End of 'Jewish' Reform Applauded *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 32
Soviet Coup 'Great Setback' for United States *[VOM]* 33
Hostage Talks Unaffected by Moscow Coup *[Hamburg DPA]* 33
PLO Official Cited on Coordination With Jordan *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 33
Israeli 'Squadron' Conducts 'Sorties' Over Sidon *[Beirut Radio]* 33
France Releases $45 Million in Aid *[Beirut Radio]* 33

SYRIA

King Husayn, al-Asad Begin Talks in Latakia *[Damascus Radio]* 34
Regional Talks Discussed *[AFP]* 34
Amman Radio Reports on Talks 34
Coordination Discussed *[Amman TV]* 34
Closed Session Continues *[Damascus Radio]* 34
Paper Urges 'Unified' Stand *[Damascus Radio]* 34
Khaddam Explains Syrian, Arab Desire for Peace *[SANA]* 35
TISHRIN Cited on No 'Bargaining' on Golan *[Damascus Radio]* 35

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Gorbachev's Ouster Threatens Afghan Settlement *[AFP]* 36
Further on Effect on Peace *[AFP]* 36
Rebels Warn Against 'Interference' *[AFP]* 37
Rebel Leader Welcomes Change *[THE NATION 20 Aug]* 37
Najibollah Attends National Day Celebrations 38

Meets Diplomatic Corps *[Kabul Radio]* 38
Calls for Peace *[Kabul Radio]* 38
Thanks Gorbachev for Greetings *[Kabul Radio]* 39
Judicial Cooperation Pact Concluded With USSR *[Kabul Radio]* 39
Delegation Meets Afghan Officials *[BAKHTAR]* 39
National Mediatory Commission Views Activities *[BAKHTAR]* 39
Najibollah Stresses Unity To Defeat 'Enemies' *[BAKHTAR]* 40
Clashes Betweenf Fundamentalist Groups Reported *[Kabul Radio]* 40
'Arab Advisors' Die in Paktia Combat *[Kabul Radio]* 40
Decree Removes Party Mention in Legal Documents *[Kabul Radio]* 40

Bangladesh

Spokesman's Comments on Events in USSR Reported *[Dhaka Radio]* 40
Moscow Developments Closely Followed *[AFP]* 40
PRC Special Envoy Arrives for Bridge Opening 41
Views Bilateral Ties *[Dhaka Radio]* 41
Khaleda Zia Inaugurates Bridge *[Dhaka International]* 41
Envoy Meets Acting President *[Dhaka International]* 41
Army Chief Leaves for Malaysia 17 Aug *[Dhaka Radio]* 42
Opposition Leader Demands Autonomy for Radio, TV *[AFP]* 42

India

Prime Minister Rao on Gorbachev's Ouster *[Delhi Radio]* 42
Situation Closely Monitored *[Delhi Radio]* 42
Pakistani Foreign Secretary Continues Visit 43
Meets Prime Minister Rao *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Meets Defense Minister Pawar *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Pakistani Involvement in Punjab, Kashmir Noted 43
Minister Cautions Pakistan *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Pakistan Said Creating War Hysteria *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Editorial on Links to Militants *[PATRIOT 31 Jul]* 43
BJP Decries Pakistan's Nuclear Weapons Acquision *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Maldivian' President Arrives in New Delhi 18 Aug *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Stresses Need for SAARC Free Trade *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Rao Reaffirms Commitment to Rajiv Gandhi Policies *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Prime Suspects of Gandhi Assassination Found Dead *[Delhi Radio]* 45
Former Minister's Relative Kidnapped in Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 45
Militants Ambush Police Party in Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 45
Army, Militants Continue Fighting in Kashmir 45
Army Takes Over Sopore *[AFP]* 45
Group Says 16 Dead in Sopore *[AFP]* 46
9 'Militants', 1 Soldier Killed *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Assam Extremist Bases Said in Bangladesh, Burma *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Reportage on Detainees, Hostage Swap in Assam *[Delhi Radio]* 47
Police Seize Large Quantity of Explosives *[AFP]* 47
BJP Leader: Uttar Pradesh To Pass Temple Bill *[Delhi Radio]* 47
Group Demands Uttar Pradesh Government Dismissal *[Delhi Radio]* 47
Police Unearth Communication Center in Tamil Nadu *[Delhi Radio]* 47
Janata Dal To Seek Impeachment of Election Chief *[Delhi Radio]* 47
Janata Dal Leader Warns of Party Break Up *[Delhi Radio]* 47
Congress-I Organizational Election Schedule *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Planning Commission Reconstituted, Members Named *[Delhi Radio]* 48

Iran

Events in USSR Viewed With 'Care, Sensitivity' *[Tehran TV]* 48
Tehran Assesses Latest Developments in USSR *[Tehran Radio]* 48
Azerbaijan's Mutalibov Criticizes Gorbachev *[Tehran Radio]* 49
Views Gorbachev Ouster *[IRNA]* 49

Departs for Baku *[IRNA]* 49
Soviet Azerbaijan Stops Normal Broadcasting *[Tehran TV]* 50
Efforts To Contact USSR by Phone 'Fruitless' *[Tehran TV]* 50
Habibi Interviewed on Range of Current Issues *[Tehran TV]* 50
Prosecutor General on Islamic Dress Violations *[Tehran Radio]* 50
Musavi-Tabrizi Expects 'Lies' *[IRNA]* 51
Says Execution Not Penalty *[Tehran Radio]* 51
* Demonstrations Reported in Various Cities *[London KEYHAN 8 Aug]* 51
* Tehran, Bahrain Connected by Air *[London KEYHAN 8 Aug]* 53
* Commentary on Decisiveness of Fourth Majles *[TEHRAN TIMES 9, 16 Jul]* 53

Nepal & Bhutan

Spokesman—Gorbachev Ouster Not To Damage Ties *[AFP]* 55

Pakistan

Soviet Change Described as 'Internal Matter' *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
Sharif Views Kashmir, Afghan, Nuclear Issues *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
PRC To Work With Islamabad on Nuclear Issue *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
Foreign Secretary Khan Leaves for India 18 Aug *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
Meets India's Rao 19 Aug *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
BBC Interview Cited *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
16 Killed Outside Gujranwala Special Court *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
New Army Chief Meets Ishaq Khan, Sharif 17 Aug *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
Sharif Views 3d Death Anniversary of Ziaul Haq *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
11 'Special Courts' Set Up for Speedy Trials *[Islamabad Radio]* 57

Sri Lanka

LTTE Radio Intercepts Reveal Split in Ranks *[Colombo International]* 57
UK To Oust Kittu for LTTE Role in Murder *[DAILY NEWS 6 Aug]* 57
Indian Official Compares Militants to Tamils *[Colombo International]* 58

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Abd-al-Majid Urges Israel To Halt Immigration

NC1808144491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1352 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 18 AUG (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has reiterated that Israel's resumption of the transfer of Falashas from Ethiopia to the Palestinian territories does not serve the peace process. He said Israel must understand that it is in its interest for peace to prevail in the region following the tribulations of the wars it has suffered during the past 50 years.

In a statement he made today, he called on Israel to stop building settlements in the occupied Arab territories and to stop bringing in new immigrants and to heed the voice of reason calling for peace in return for land.

Israel announced Friday it will continue to bring the remaining Falashas from Ethiopia.

Arab Atomic Energy Group Holds Conference

LD1608165291 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] The meeting of the general conference of the Arab organization for atomic energy ended in Tunis this morning. The conference studied the conference plan for 1991 and 1992 and approved the projects, programs, and the organization budget for these two years.

The conference cited the need to support joint Arab action in the field of the peaceful use of atomic energy, and called on Arab states to exercise their legitimate right to transfer science and technology in the interest of the advancement of the Arab nation.

The conference emphasized the need for the intensification of Arab efforts in the atomic sciences fields and for continuous coordination between all Arab states through the Arab organization for atomic energy.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinians React to Events in Soviet Union

Qaddumi Sees Positive Effects

JN2008084091 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Aug 91 pp 1,16

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] In the first Palestinian reaction to yesterday's overthrow of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi, also known as Abu-al-Lutf, has said that this event might restore the Soviet Union to what it once was and could make a substantial contribution to bringing about a new international balance after this balance was damaged and the Soviet Union lost much of its leverage due to perestroyka, a process which has reached a dead end.

In a telephone interview with SAWT AL-SHA'B, Faruq Qaddumi said: I believe that this stage will put an end to the international order being called for by the United States and will enhance the Third World's political role will be enhanced. He added: There is no doubt that this historic event, which was welcomed by official and popular sectors in the Third World, will reassure many Third World countries that have been experiencing foreign interference in their domestic affairs.

Faruq Qadumi said: With all this in mind, we would like to reaffirm that we support the friendly Soviet Union in its new era, and we wish the friendly Soviet people progress, prosperity, and stability.

On how this important event will affect the Palestinian cause, Qaddumi said: In my opinion, the international peace conference, even if it were to convene, will not convene on schedule, and the disruption in the regional balance of power which favors Israel will, with time, change in our favor. Perhaps these events herald a better future.

Qaddumi said: We support an international detente which establishes a state of balance and safeguards all people's interests without any interference in their domestic affairs. We do not want a return to the cold war but we reaffirm our position which rejects U.S. hegemony through all means as well as the Israeli and Zionist arrogance—which seeks to impose an unjust and unfair settlement on the Palestinian cause. Qaddumi said: God willing, our people's future will be characterized by liberation and independence thanks to their blessed intifadah, which will escalate.

On how this event will affect fraternal Iraq against which a war of starvation is being waged, Qaddumi said: We hope that this event will indirectly but positively affect Iraq—which has been the target of the unjust U.S. aggression—through the friendly positions the Soviet Union may adopt in international forums and at the United Nations.

Commentary on Regional Impact

LD2008000991 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, no matter how the enemies of our people delude themselves about their ability to cordon off our people and isolate them from the world, what is happening in Palestine is strongly tied to international developments in the east, west, north, and south. All the changes in the international arena in some way affect our people's march toward their inalienable right to a homeland on their usurped territory.

When the changes in the Soviet Union began under the title of perestroyka or restructuring, it was said that the

events in the East were simply internal affairs and would not affect the firm foreign policy of the Soviet Union. The inevitability of the linkage of domestic and international affairs was, however, represented in a transformation of the international balance of power. These effects did not only emerge in eastern Europe: Its bitter side was suffered by the Third World states and the international forces of liberation. In the Middle East, U.S. will predominated, and the Americans planned to fulfill their interests and the interests of their Zionist ally under the shadow of regional and international compliance.

Those who had submitted to America's will had wittingly and unwittingly forgotten about the situation's inevitability; they had begun to look to a unipolar world. Wittingly and unwittingly, they had forgotten that conflict is the norm in affairs and in the universe, and they had begun to demand that the defenders of just causes surrender and bow their heads before the arrogant American sword.

Despite the process of Arab, regional, and international retreat, our Palestinian people continued to insist on being the vanguard in the conflict of good against evil, the conflict of right against wrong. They were all confident that if they had lost an ally or a supporter, right in itself was might, and that while falsehood prevails only once, final victory and eternal sovereignty will belong to right alone—as long as it has soldiers who are not susceptible to despair or fatigue.

The ferocious attack on the Palestinian people and the PLO, its sole and legitimate representative, intensified; the blockade on our steadfast and patient people in the occupied homeland tightened; and scenarios of conspiracy, retreat, and the selling off of the cause followed one another. These scenarios did not even exclude holy Jerusalem from their list; it was placed at the top of deals to be concluded under the title of regional peace. The Palestinian, however, will remained firm and committed to confronting all these attacks.

No one can disagree that the news everyone woke up to today will have its consequences. Perestroyka in the USSR has fallen, and no one will have the courage this time to repeat early statements to the effect that changes in this big and powerful country are merely internal matters which have no effect on the international balances or any repercussions for all the issues of the planet Earth. The news from Moscow, the details and implications of which are being carried by the world news agencies, demonstrates that conflict is inevitable and is a natural state, and that this law, which has governed the changes inside the USSR, must also govern international relations, for the perestroyka phase is no exception. The military men who have taken over in the Soviet Union learned the lessons of the Gulf War. The United States, which was under the illusion that it is the unrivaled leader of the world and which is lying in wait for a European giant that might not attain maturity or enter the conflict for quite some time, should today wake up to the truth that the Soviet Union has indeed lost eastern Europe, but that a new alliance between the USSR and the People's Republic of China will impose a new international balance of power and will continue the struggle with the United States on all fronts. Such a conflict will have repercussions in all corners of the globe, especially where there are raging hotbds of tension. In such a situation, the Soviet Union will not become a silent witness in any regional conference, and there will be no regional conferences except through the United Nations, which will not remain biased towards the White House and its plans and ambitions.

We are not anticipating events, but are simply reminding those who yearn to sign an Arab renunciation of Jerusalem, of the inalienable Palestinian right, and of our people's belief and determination that they will overcome all the conspirators of the dark, no matter how competent they are. We also warn them of the nature and inevitability of things. Fighting against evil is an inevitability, and surrender is neither in the nature of things nor in the nature of the Arabs.

PLO Military Official Urges 'Arafat Ouster

TA1908131891 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 19 Aug 91 p 3

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Abu-'Ali Shahin, one of the most prominent leaders of the PLO's military arm, has called for 'Arafat to be deposed and has hinted of a possible revolt against him.

In an official Fatah letter disseminated in the territories and the diaspora, Abu-'Ali Shahin has levelled harsh criticism at 'Arafat, accusing him of extreme selfishness, corruption, lack of confidence in his struggle comrades, humiliating the cadre of warriors, promoting sycophants, and abandoning his original principles for personal gain.

Abu-'Ali Shahin was 'Arafat's best friend during the first years following Fatah's establishment, but their ways parted when Shahin devoted himself to the armed struggle. He spent many years in Israeli prisons, lived in isolation, and was later deported. At the same time 'Arafat advanced in the PLO leadership. After he was deported, Shahin settled in Lebanon, where he began a series of fights with 'Arafat's men until he was deposed and detained.

Shahin accuses 'Arafat of deliberately dispersing the western sector command, which was in charge of acts of terrorism in Israel and the territories, because what he feared most of all was Abu-Jihad's [Khalil al-Wazir] gaining power. When the intifadah broke out, 'Arafat did not seek its success, but was concerned with blocking Abu-Jihad. Abu-'Ali Shahin claims this is the reason why 'Arafat was willing to support the Muslim brothers against Abu-Jihad.

Shahin ridicules the idea that 'Arafat remained single because he has fallen in love with Palestine. The truth, Shahin writes, is that 'Arafat is so much in love with himself, that he is not willing to share his bed with a woman....

Shahin reviews the ways 'Arafat was planning to erode the strength of the military organizations and their supreme organization, the Revolutionary Council, and he discusses the means of changing the PLO and returning it to its original goals.

Officials Reject Syrian-Palestinian Delegation

JN1908155391 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Doha, August 19 (GNA)—The Syrian leadership and commanders of the National Palestinian Salvation Front have rejected the idea of forming a joint Syrian-Palestinian delegation to take part in the proposed peace talks, Palestinian sources told the Qatari AL-'ARAB newspaper.

The sources said Syria and the Salvation Front have insisted that the Palestinians have an independent representation in the peace conference.

AL-'ARAB, in its issue today quoted Arab diplomatic sources in Amman as saying the idea was floated by the Israeli Government to an American delegation of experts during talks with the Israelis on the Middle East peace conference.

Relations With Jordan Reportedly Worsening

PM1908085091 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 15 Aug 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Jordanian Dispute With PLO Over Who Should Represent 'Passport Holders'"]

[Text] There has recently been a worsening of the dispute among the security organs which control Palestinian action, led by Hakam Bal'awi, the official in charge of national and central security organs. The dispute has been caused by the fact that Bal'awi arrested a member of the national security organ, led by Amin al-Hindi, on the pretext that he was plotting against his life. A Palestinian source told SAWT AL-KUWAYT that al-Hindi told the Tunis-based Fatah Central Committee that he was no longer able to tolerate any more of Hakam Bal'awi's excesses. The sources pointed out that the "close" relations between Yasir 'Arafat and Bal'awi are currently being cooled down considerably and that the former now avoids visiting the "palace" in which the latter resides in Qamart district north of the Tunisian capital. 'Arafat used to receive his distinguished Arab and foreign guests at the palace.

Furthermore, Jordan and the PLO's dispute over the question of who should represent the Palestinians, especially those holding Jordanian passports, has become increasingly noticeable recently. Jordan's new ambassador in Tunis, Haydar Mahmud (who is of Palestinian origin and is known as the Jordanian Royal Court's poet,) protested to PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi over the tutelage imposed by Hakam Bal'awi over the Jordanians of Palestinian origin who come to Tunisia.

It is known that Bal'awi, who also holds the post of director of the PLO office in Tunis, managed to convince the relevant Tunisian authorities that security precautions concerning PLO leaders in the Tunisian capital mean that any citizen who is a Palestinian or of Palestinian origin should obtain his—Bal'awi's—prior approval if he wants to come to Tunis. The Jordanian ambassador's protest came after a Jordanian lady of Palestinian origin belonging to the Bakir family spent four hours at Carthage International Airport until Hakam Bal'awi was contacted and he approved the lady's entry into Tunisia.

An informed Palestinian source said that Bal'awi deliberately spoke arrogantly to 'Arafat in other people's presence to make the people present at the meeting believe that it is actually he who is in control of the affairs of the Palestinians in Tunis.

'Arafat Invited to Libyan River Ceremony

LD1608092491 Tripoli JANA in English 0811 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Arab Maghreb Union pool item]

[Text] Tunis, 16 Hannibal [August] (JANA)—The Palestinian President, Yasir 'Arafat, received yesterday Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi who arrived Wednesday afternoon in Tunis from Algiers handing him at this meeting an invitation by the leader of the revolution to attend the massive celebrations on the arrival of the waters of the great man-made industrial river to the city of Banghazi on 28th instant.

Mr. 'Arafat expressed his thanks to the leader for this invitation reconfirming his appreciation of the constant stances assumed by the leader and the great al-Fatih revolution towards the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The two sides took stock at this meeting the latest developments in the Arab and international arena particularly the Palestinian question.

This meeting was also attended by Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Mr. Hakam Bal'awi, representative of the State of Palestine in Tunis and the general representative of great Jamahiriyah in Tunisia.

Abu-Sharif on PNC Meeting, U.S. Understanding

NC1608120291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1109 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Tunis, 16 Aug (MENA)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, has said that the Palestine National Council [PNC] session that will convene in Algiers in mid-September will assume special importance because it will discuss all aspects of the political situation in the Middle East, especially the peace conference which the United States and the Soviet Union have proposed to convene in October. In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Tunis, he said that special arrangements for convening the new PNC session have been completed, adding that invitations will be sent out in 20 days.

Abu-Sharif said that the PLO has adopted a constructive position toward U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's efforts to convene the peace conference. He pointed out that the PLO is awaiting an agreement with the United States through a joint memorandum of understanding that contains "sure and sufficient guarantees" on key issues, the most important of which are ending Israel's occupation of Arab territories and recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

PNC Leader Discusses Peace Talks, New Council

LD1808225891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, chairman of the Palestine National Council [PNC], said in a press statement that any attempt to exclude the PLO from the peace conference will be a failure, because consuls and representatives of the Western states met in Jerusalem with a number of Palestinians, and they were unanimous at all stages that if a political solution to the Palestinian problem is sought, the PLO should be contacted, because of its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Concerning the Council's 20th session, expected next month in Algeria, Shaykh Al-Sa'ih confirmed the need to form a new national council to give its opinion on any new developments, and what is being divulged on the awaited solutions. He went on to say that the solutions and the possibilities of solutions that are currently being proposed in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas require the Palestinian people's opinion. As the Council is the first legislative authority in relation to the PLO, it must be invited to form the new council.

Fatah Appoints New Chief in Lebanon

NC1608054991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Fatah has appointed Zayd Wahbah as its official in charge in Lebanon, replacing Colonel 'Ala' al-Afandi, who has stepped down. It has been reported that al-Afandi, who assumed the post following the Lebanese Army's deployment around the camps, will soon leave Lebanon for good.

It has been learned that the PLO made the decision to appoint Wahbah, hitherto al-Afandi's deputy and the official responsible for the Palestinian trade unions federation.

Commentary Criticizes New U.S. World Order

LD1608012191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] U.S. officials reiterate the statement that the Arabs, and not only Iraq, were defeated in the Gulf war. They forget, or pretend to forget, that some Arab countries entered the coalition with them, that they helped and participated in this defeat, and that the Gulf war, as the United States claimed and continues to claim, was for the liberation of Kuwait.

Such statements do contain falsehoods; however, the greatest falsehood, and indeed calamity, is revealed when Americans say that the victor is Israel, and make the disturbing deduction that, as a result, the Arabs must accept the victor's conditions.

Whatever the idiocy of such talk, the answer is that the Arab countries engaged Israel in four wars without surrendering, and rejected any humilating conditions. How could they then accept such humilation now?

When the Americans say such things, it does not cause as much embarrassment to the Arab masses, who rejected foreign intervention in the Gulf, as it does to those Arab and Islamic countries that entered into an alliance with the foreigner in this despicable war. Without going into polemics, it is general knowledge that Iraq's defeat was primarily delivered by the United States. How could Washington then divert that victory to Israel? Or is it that hardliners among the Arabs are right when they say that Washington and Tel Aviv are, in political reality, the same body?

If we are to embark on negotiations at the peace conference in one and a half months with this background and these concepts, it has to be clear where the United States stands in this conference. Washington has succeeded in taking this conference away from the international umbrella, and in leaving the UN Security Council with a marginal role in compliance with Israel's desire. The European and Soviet roles, have been reduced to those of mere observers. Even the UN Security Council resolutions have become subject to new interpretations instead of being implemented, as the United States did in the case of Iraq.

We are not so stupid as to believe in asking Washington to send its fleets to implement the UN Security Council

resolutions in the Middle East. But we do ask Washington what sort of conference it calls for, if it believes that its parties are split into a victor and a loser. If the statement that Washington uses double standards in this world has become worn out, we ask Washington about its promise that, after the Gulf war, international law would absolutely dominate world affairs.

Despite the pain and bitterness our Palestinian people feel, despite the widespread feeling of failure that swept through our masses due to the Gulf war, they still stand in fulfillment of their promise for steadfastness, defiance, and rejection of the U.S. proposals if the objective behind them is to change the meaning of the Palestinian question and bypass our people's rights.

The (?exclusion) of the Palestinian topic, after its marginalization, confirms that the solutions and settlements in which the peace conference may result will be partial ones, leading to treaties with Arab countries, and will leave the main question and its just solution out of the spotlight.

No one can imagine that this nation will submit to the new U.S. order, which departs from the premise of victor and defeated, or that any Arab party will agree to relinquish Arab lands. In that case, how would this problem be solved? That is left to the future and to history.

In that regard, it is logical that Washington should wake up from the outburst of victory and open the way to a comprehensive solution that is likely to continue and survive, by proving to the peoples of the region that it is serious about finding a just and comprehensive solution. With that alone it can prove its worthiness in leading the whole world.

U.S. Wants Arabs To 'Comprehend' Israeli Demands

TA1608142891 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Aug 91 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Understanding Or Comprehension"]

[Text] The visible outcome of the "process of understanding" currently under way between the United States and Israel, which is begin worked out by a special U.S. team that has arrived in Israel for the second time since ending its visit to Jordan, indicates that Israel is determined to empty the peace process of any content by raising dozens of points on which it is seeking to reach agreement with the United States. Those points basically concern Jerusalem, Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, settlements, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and international interpretation of Resolutions 242 and 338.

It is worth noting that the United States occasionally tries to portray itself as a neutral mediator by suggesting ideas and proposals that on the surface seem to contain U.S., rather than Israeli, perceptions. It is not long, however, before we find out that those perceptions are responsive to the Israeli ones, which receive total "comprehension" from the U.S. Administration. This bolsters the trend of expansionism and the Israeli leaders' categorical rejection of any initiative aiming to establish regional peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy.

If the U.S. team that concluded its talks in Amman yesterday failed to draft a memorandum of understanding with the Jordanian Government and failed earlier to formulate a memorandum of understanding with the Palestinian delegation at the meeting in Ramallah, this foot-dragging in achieving a memorandum of understanding basically stems from Washington's "comprehension" of Israeli security requirements, which are measured in kilometers, just as it stems from Washington's eagerness to coordinate stances with Israel's leaders on all Israeli requirements. Thus, no understanding can be reached between Washington and any Arab party involved in the conflict as long as the U.S. Administration "comprehends" the Israeli intransigence, which represents an obstacle to the peace process.

The U.S. Administration wants to reach an understanding with the Arabs so that they can "comprehend" Israeli demands for a unilateral end to the boycott, a unilateral destruction of arms, the ratification of the legitimacy of the occupation of all the occupied territories, the overlooking of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, and satisfaction with the crumbs of "self-administration," which was rejected by the Palestinians 12 years ago.

The Palestinian delegation that met with the U.S. team in Ramallah explained without the slightest ambiguity the points that Washington must accept before entering the peace conference. Those points constitute the foundations and principles of the Palestinian position in dealing with any settlement to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem. Without achieving a guaranteed understanding, in writing, over those principles, the peace process will not be destined to resume its march.

Editorial Blasts Israeli Conference Conditions

TA1608155191 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 14 Aug 91 p 7

[Editorial: "The Approach Has Changed But Not the Content!"]

[Text] The U.S. State Department delegation comprising Dan Kurtzer, Aaron Miller, and Edmund Hull, has left Israel without reaching an agreement in principle on the memorandum of understanding that the Israeli Government has set as a condition for attending the proposed peace conference.

The points of disagreement centered on the issue of Palestinian representation and the interpretation of Security Council Resolution 242, in addition to some "adornment," such as who will deliver the proposed

Jordanian-Palestinian delegation's opening address. Israel wants to prevent the Palestinian side from even delivering a speech at the ceremonial opening meeting of the peace conference.

According to the Israeli viewpoint, the Palestinian representation must be approved by Israel and must exclude the PLO and Jerusalem's Arab residents, or the Israeli Government should have the right to object to any name it deems inappropriate for membership in the delegation. Another Israeli condition stipulates that Palestinian representation should be within the context of a joint delegation with Jordan.

As for Security Council Resolution 242, the Israeli Government's interpretation of this resolution differs completely from that of the rest of the world's countries, including the United States. More than one Israeli official has said that Israel implemented this resolution when its forces completed their withdrawal from the Egyptian Sinai desert in 1982.

The obstacles are the same, and the conditions the same. A few weeks ago the Israeli Government was saying: "We will not agree to attend a peace conference unless the following conditions are met"—that is, the condition of Palestinian representation and Israeli interpretation of Resolution 242. Now the Israeli Government says yes to attending the peace conference—if the following conditions are met.

In short, the Israeli presentation has changed, but the content has remained the same. The Israeli Government insists on interfering in the formation of the Palestinian delegation and striving to abolish the land-for-peace principle before entering the negotiating hall.

In the face of this position, all eyes are now directed toward Washington. Will the U.S. Administration agree to the Israeli conditions? If it does agree, can anyone imagine the participation of a Palestine delegation chosen by Israel? How can the Arab states attend a peace conference not based on the land-for-peace principle—namely, Israel's withdrawal from the Arab lands occupied since 1967.

Should Washington reject the Israeli conditions, will this mean that Israel will not attend? What will the U.S. Administration do should Israel refuse to accept the Bush-Gorbachev invitation?

These questions will be solved in the upcoming days and weeks.

Radio Comments on Israeli Settlement Problem

LD1808141591 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Palestinian representation still represents the most difficult figure in the equation of the peace conference that is due to convene next October. It has become the last barrier in the frantic race to set up the conference format. News, statements, announcements, and contacts are all concentrating on this insurmountable obstacle that could impede the conference's convention or could postpone it indefinitely.

As it appears, the issue has another aspect for anyone who examines the stances and the developments accompanying the peace efforts, which is not in harmony with the requirements of the current stage, which will supposedly draw the participants to sit around the negotiating table. This aspect, whose practices are being obscured, is the settlement policy which Israel has persisted in accelerating and intensifying for days, thus challenging the international community's will, particularly of its true friend, the United States, and remaining indifferent to almost daily criticisms which the U.S. Administration has been addressing to it in this respect. By this, the Israeli settlement policy has become, as demonstrated by the practices which are actually being implemented, the difficult figure, the very difficult figure, in the peace effort equation. Thus, even if a method to solve the problem of Palestinian representation is found in one way or another, the Israel figure remains the mountain of obstacles and potholes which will nip the solemn conference in the bud, even without the statements from leaders of the ruling Likud Party that there is to be no return to the borders prior to 5 Jun 1967, and no surrender of unified Jerusalem.

American newspaper reports recently discussed the possibility that, at the last minute, Yitzhaq Shamir will change his mind about his agreement to attend the peace conference. Why haven't international efforts been made in an attempt to convince Israel to stop its settlement practices? Why doesn't the main agenda, which Secretary Baker must propose in his probable seventh tour of the region, contain a clear call to Israel to abandon its policy and declared position concerning land and rights? Is it possible to see an intensified U.S. move in this direction? The following days will answer this question.

Egypt

Musa Briefs Mubarak on Soviet Events, Comments

NC1908130191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Alexandria, 19 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa briefed President Husni Mubarak on the situation in the Soviet Union when he was received by the president today. The president is following developments with great interest.

Musa told reporters after the meeting that the current events in the Soviet Union are of extreme importance, adding that everything that happens in the Soviet Union, a superpower, affects the rest of the world. He said: We are following events. We want this superpower to have stability so that it can continue the global role it has started to play within the framework of the positive world changes and developments of recent years.

Foreign Ministry Source on Gorbachev's Removal

NC1908104891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1028 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 19 Aug (MENA)—A well-informed source at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has said that the decision to relieve Soviet President Gorbachev of his post was a surprise to all. He added that it is only natural for Egypt to follow the situation with considerable interest in view of its strong relations with the Soviet Union.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

NC1808112491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 18 Aug (MENA)—Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd- al-Karim al-Iryani arrived here this morning for a one-day visit. In a statement upon his arrival, Dr. al-Iryani said he was carrying a message to President Husni Mubarak from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih as part of the continuous consultations and contacts between the two leaders. He added that he will also hold talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on ways of consolidating bilateral relations and the progress of the ongoing peace efforts being exerted by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on the basis of U.S. President George Bush's initiative.

The Yemeni foreign minister added that his country has expressed support for this initiative and for the ongoing efforts to achieve peace, because they are based on international legitimacy and the UN resolutions dealing with the occupied territories and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. He pointed out that the Egyptian-Yemeni talks are aimed at coordinating the two countries' stands during the 46th UN General Assembly session.

Dr. al-Iryani said that Yemen supports the ongoing efforts to consolidate Arab solidarity and to clear the Arab atmosphere and expressed that hope that Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid succeeds in his mission in this regard.

Asked about the Egyptian-Yemeni relations, al-Iryani said they were as good as any relations between states could be.

Asked about the Egyptian fishermen detained in Yemen, al-Iryani said that following contacts between Presidents Husni Mubarak and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, three Egyptian fishing boats which had been seized for violating Yemeni laws were freed.

Egyptian Foreign Musa 'Amr Musa, who received the Yemeni official at the airport, said the Yemeni minister's presence in Cairo provides an opportunity to discuss closing Arab ranks, the situation in the Middle East, and the state of bilateral ties and coordination in light of upcoming international gatherings such as the nonaligned foreign ministers meeting and the UN General Assembly session.

Mubarak Receives Yemeni Minister

NC1908115691 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani this morning at the al-Muntazah Palace in Alexandria. Al-Iryani handed President Mubarak a written message from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the Yemeni ambassador to Cairo also attended the meeting.

Yemeni Minister Comments

NC1908134391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Alexandria, 19 Aug (MENA)—Following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani said he conveyed to his excellency a message from his brother Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He added that they held full consultations on regional developments, particularly bilateral relations and the peace efforts in light of U.S. President George Bush's initiative, which is based on international legitimacy, and the UN resolutions on the occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Commenting on the meeting, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said the discussions dealt with the regional situation, the peace efforts, efforts to restore Arab solidarity, and other issues concerning Egypt, Yemen, and all Arab countries.

Musa, Yemeni Minister Talk

NC1808143691 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held a round of talks today with Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani.

Minister al-Iryani later said the talks dealt with Egyptian-Yemeni relations in all fields and means of boosting them. He said the talks also dealt with developments in the Horn of Africa. He added that the talks will resume later today and tomorrow.

The Yemeni minister said his country has supported the peace efforts because they are based on international legitimacy, UN resolutions on the occupied territories, and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. He added that Yemen and the Arab countries support the restoration of Arab solidarity and the clearing of the Arab atmosphere. He said that Egyptian-Yemeni relations are at their best level.

Ali Alatas Arrives in Cairo for Peace Talks

BK1508115091 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Indonesia has urged Israel to show flexibility in the issue of hostages in the Middle East and fully support efforts by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to have all hostages released. Foreign Minister Ali Alatas reiterated this to newsmen when he arrived in Cairo, Egypt for talks on the Middle East situation with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Muhammad Musa.

Meanwhile, AFP [AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE] has reported from Damascus that Ali Alatas discussed efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East and enhance bilateral relations with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' during his two-day visit to Syria. Before leaving Damascus, Ali Alatas reiterated Indonesia's full support for the Arab people's struggle and Syria's role in the Middle East peace process.

Musa, PLO Official Discuss Peace Process

NC1708154091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1329 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 17 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met with PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani. During the meeting, al-Surani reviewed the Palestinian view on participation in the settlement efforts and the peace conference and stressed Egypt's vital and historic role in defining the course and future of the region and the Palestinian issue.

Musa Comments on Meeting With Likud Delegation

NC1908051091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2117 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 18 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa this evening received a delegation representing the Young Guard of Israel's Likud Party which is currently visiting Cairo.

Speaking after the meeting, the foreign minister said he had briefed the delegation on the Egyptian and Arab views on the ongoing peace efforts in the region and stressed the need for flexibility to advance toward peace with a strong political will. Musa said that achieving a just peace is the responsibility of all sides, which must be committed to this goal.

Foreign Minister Musa added that he had also reiterated Egypt's stand on East Jerusalem, which is considered to be part of the occupied Arab territories and therefore subject to Security Council Resolution 242. He stressed the importance of Israel's halting its building of settlements in the occupied Arab territories and of adopting measures to build confidence for the sake of advancing the peace process. Minister Musa also affirmed that Egypt believes that autonomy is simply one stage in the process and should be followed by negotiations to reach a permanent solution to the problem.

Mubarak Said To Give Open Invitation to Shamir

TA1908044391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Excerpts] The Egyptian foreign minister has said that an agreement has already been reached on the participation of the Palestinians in the peace conference, within the framework of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that will not appear on behalf of the PLO.

Correspondent Yehoshu'a Me'iri reports that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa made these statements while meeting yesterday evening with the Likud Young Guard delegation. [passage omitted]

The Likud Young Guard delegation currently visiting Cairo was told that President Mubarak invites Prime Minister Shamir to visit Egypt any time he wants. This was reported by Gil Samsonov, the head of the delegation, after he and his colleagues met with Yusuf Wali, the Egyptian deputy prime minister and secretary of the ruling party. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 19 August adds that Deputy Prime Minister Yusuf Wali "pointed out that there has been a sharp turnabout in Egyptian President Mubarak's attitude toward Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir."]

As yet, there has been no official confirmation of the invitation from Cairo.

It was also reported that a delegation of young officials from the ruling Egyptian party will visit Israel soon.

Musa Reportedly To Visit Tel Aviv 'Soon'

NC1708113991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa is expected to visit Tel Aviv soon to discuss a Middle East settlement with his Israeli counterpart, David Levi. Musa's visit comes in response to an invitation extended by Levi intended to allow the two to continue the talks they began when Levi led an Israeli delegation to Cairo.

Kuwait Requests Troops Be Left 'Symbolic Force'

NC1608125491 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 14 Aug 91 p 1

[Excerpt] The Kuwaiti Government has officially asked Egypt not to withdraw those of its troops who remain in Kuwait so that they can act as a symbolic force for Kuwait's defense until the Damascus Declaration signatories decide on security arrangements, set up an Arab security force, and sign agreements between the Gulf countries on the one hand and Egypt and Syria on the other.

A diplomat has told AL-AHALI that the Kuwaiti request was made in view of the ongoing delays in implementing the declaration's security provisions and the differences among the Gulf countries over the role to be played by the Egyptian and Syrian troops. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Lauds Yanayev's 'Brave' Action

LD1908133691 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has sent a cable to President Gennadiy Yanayev, chairman of the State Committee for the State of Emergency in the Soviet Union. Following is its text:

President Gennadiy Yanayev, chairman of the State Committee for the State of Emergency in the Soviet Union, Moscow.

Upon our reciept of your statement in which you have made clear the reasons which induced you to take this action, it gives us pleasure to congratulate you for carrying out this brave historical action which we hope will save the Soviet Union from the fatal crisis in which it was involved as a result of a large scale imperialist plot which did not aim at the Soviet Union alone but the entire peoples of the globe. We most strongly support this action of yours, because it is very vital that the Soviet Union stands united as a second world power for the cause of international peace, which has become threatened everywhere because of the monopoly of a single barbaric power in the world.

The forces hostile to freedom, peace, and progress would not be deterred except by force because they have no human values and morals. The power of the Soviet Union was the historical deterrence to the forces of colonialism and imperialism.

The great deed which you have carried out this morning, and which is supported by Third World peoples, which are exposed to defeat and dismembership against their will due to the evil intentions of imperialism, is very important to restore the Soviet Union's world prestige and to restore the dignity of the Soviet citizen, which imperialism was tempted to trample over with its dirty feet, and also to restore the necessary unity of the peoples of the Soviet Union and its territoral integrity.

We assure you of the commitment of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Jamhiriyah to the historical and firm friendship with the Soviet Union, which we will not compromise regardless of circumstances. Libya, which believes in the cause of peace, socialism and freedom for all peoples, and the national unity of nations, has remained firm in its stand and noncompromising principles, contrary to the desparate, the feeble, and the greedy who compromised everything.

We stress our support to you and our stand by you.

The Greeks have been vanquished in the nearer part of the land; and, after their vanquishing; they shall be the victors in a few years. To God belongs the command before and after, and on that day the believers shall rejoice in God's help. [Koranic verses]

Long live the revolutionary struggle for freedom, socialism, and peace.

[Signed] Your friend, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi

Sudan's Embassy Welcomes Changes in USSR

LD1908220491 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] The Sudanese embassy in the Great Jamahiriyah has issued a statement on the changes in the Soviet Union saying: Although the change that has taken place in the Soviet Union is an internal matter of concern to the peoples of the Soviet Union, we in the Third World should be affected by what has happened, for we have been affected by the lack of international balance, which has made interference in the internal affairs of other states a characteristic of the previous period. We have also witnessed the imposition of policies on states and international organizations, to the extent that the United Nations has come to represent one viewpoint. One state has become the be-all and end-all in international affairs. International peace and security have been threatened by imperialist hegemony over the affairs of the world.

The peoples of the Third World, including Sudan, are looking with satisfaction at what has happened in the Soviet Union because it restores the Soviet Union's credibility and achieves international balance and justice.

The change that taken place is a lesson to all those who have calculated on obeying the orders of world imperialism and who have begun to echo their masters' orders in order to impose them on their struggling peoples. [What has happened in the USSR] is a good opportunity for the world to hear the voices of the weak who have been terrorized by the voices of the arrogant and the agents. Our Arab homeland should prepare for the restoration of the USSR's credibility as a friend of our homeland, the Soviet Union which has stood by our issues of destiny in confronting imperialism and Zionism.

Paper Says U.S.-Libyan Meeting Slated for Oct

NC1908150391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Kuwait, 19 Aug (MENA)—The Kuwaiti paper SAWT AL-KUWAIT today cites an informed Egyptian source as saying that Egyptian efforts have succeeded in reaching an agreement on holding a meeting between a senior U.S. official and Libyan officials in Cairo in October to resolve the disputes between the two countries and prepare for the restoration of normal relations.

The paper adds that Washington has recently shown flexibility toward Egyptian efforts to hold this meeting in view of the role Libya could play in defining the Palestinian choices in the peace process.

Mediation Between U.S., Libya Stressed

PM2008084491 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 19 Aug 91 p 5

[Unattributed report: "U.S.-Libyan Meeting in Cairo"]

[Text] Cairo, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—An informed Egyptian source has told SAWT AL-KUWAYT that Egyptian endeavors have succeeded in establishing an agreement to hold a meeting between a senior U.S. official and Libyan officials in Cairo in October to resolve the disputes between the two countries and to prepare for restoring relations to their normal status. It is known that Washington has recently displayed flexibility toward the Egyptian efforts over almost a year for the sake of this meeting, in view of the role that Libya could play in determining the Palestinians' choices with regard to the peace process and the conference that is expected to be convened.

Egyptian Petroleum Minister Arrives 18 Aug

LD1908165191 Tripoli JANA in English 0858 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Tripoli, Hanibal [August] 18, JAMAHIRYA NEWS AGENCY—Dr Engineer Hamdi 'Ali 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Banbi, the Egyptian minister for petroleum and mineral resources, and the delegation in his company arrived in Tripoli last night on a visit to Great Jamahiriyah. The minister made a statement to JANA's correspondent expressing his pleasure and happiness at his visit to great Jamahiriyah. He said that the visit came within the framework of consolidating complementarity in oil spheres between great Jamahiriyah and Egypt, finding firm formula to enhance cooperation between the two sisterly countries by exchanging expertise, holding seminars on oil subjects in addition to bolstering cooperation in petrochemicals, maintenance and discussion and study of setting up a joint engineering company for oil design and projects. The minister concluded his statement by saying during our stay here, we will visit oil installations to see the extent of progress achieved by the Libyan Arab people.

Festivities Prepared for 'Manmade River' Opening

LD1708182691 Tripoli JANA in English 1458 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Tripoli, Hanibal [August] 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Preparations are under way for the big festivities marking the completion of the first phase of the great manmade river project which will be concluded with the outflow of the waters of the river in the city of Banghazi on the 28th instant [August].

The celebrations are to be attended by delegations from all over the world to witness this great historic event realised as a result of revolutionary determination which decided to redraft the way of life on the soil which became free with the advent of the great al-Fatih revolution in 1969.

The great manmade river has a special importance in the series of the colossal achievements accomplished by the great al-Fatih revolution in the sector of water resources development for the advanced civilisational achievement these represent. This project is undoubtedly one of the biggest known by mankind in carrying ground water through huge pipelines system hidden underground whose length is 4000 kms when all phases are completed.

The great manmade river is aimed at carrying huge quantities of drinking water from ground reservoirs to the areas of al-Sarir, Tazirbu, Jabal Lahsawna and to the south of it to coastal areas of Great Jamahiriyah for use in irrigation, public services and industrial activities.

The execution of the project did not come about as a result of a spontaneous idea or emotive tendency. But it came about as a result of thorough scientific studies before starting the realisation of the project. All studies showed the existence of huge reserves of drinking ground water under vast areas of the desert in southern Great Jamahiriyah.

The studies and their conclusions induced the Libyan Arab people to lay down the necessary plans and allocate huge sums of money to implement the project. Here is the project standing today to be seen by the whole world.

The project consists of five phases two main ones and three others are complementary. The first phase aims at carrying 2 million cubic metres of water daily through huge pipelines with a 4 metre diametre each to the coastal agrarian belt situated between Ganghazi and Surt. However, the second phase aims at carrying one million cubic metres of water daily to the western region of Great Jamahiriyah through similar network of pipelines for use in agriculture at the fertile plains of al-Ja'afirah.

But the complementary phases aim at enlarging the project to cover all Great Jamahiriyah making use of the maximum quantities of ground waters.

The great manmade river is over 4000 kms long through which 6 million cubic metres of drinking water are due to be carried daily via reinforced pipelines with a 4 metre diametre each.

Sources at the administration of the project of the project stressed that this glorious civilisation project would not have been realised without the great al-Fatih revolution and the personal endeavours of the leader of the revolution for the execution of the project which will turn the Libyan Arab land into a green paradise through the transfer of millions of cubic metres of drinking water from nonagrarian areas to agricultural land irrigating hundreds of thousands of hectares to secure self sufficiency and food security from agricultural and animal products in reaffirmation of the principle there is no freedom for people who eat from overseas.

Sudan

Khalifah Returns to Khartoum After Tour

EA1708171591 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Aug (SUNA)—Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Revolution Command Council member and chairman of the peace and external relations department, returned home today after an African tour which took him to Kenya, Uganda, Zaire, the Central African Republic, Chad, [and Nigeria] in order to clarify the government's efforts to restore peace and emphasize the principles of good neighborliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of [word indistinct]. In a press statement, his excellency described the tour as successful [words indistinct]. He added that he had reached non-aggression and nonintervention agreements with the officials of those countries, and that the leaders stressed that good neighborliness was the principle of foreign policy with Sudan.

He stated that [words indistinct] to explain the government's efforts towards peace, seeing that Nigerian President Babangida will host the negotiations between the government and the rebel Garang movement in the coming months. He said that President Babangida is striving, together with other African leaders, to solve this issue, adding that a Nigerian delegation is expected to arrive in Nairobi to meet the rebels. Likewise, a Sudanese delegation will also arrive to take the negotiation agenda from the [word indistinct].

Col. Khalifah said that his visit to Chad was made to participate in the celebrations of that country's national day where he (?met) the Chadian president, Idriss Deby, and discussed with him the relations between the two countries.

Khalifah Outlines Points of Recent Tour

EA1808181291 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1535 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Aug (SUNA)— [Passage indistinct] Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Revolution Command Council member and chairman of the peace and external relations' department, has expressed (?hope) that the awaited round of negotiations between the government and the rebel movement will be a success. In a press conference today, his excellency said that we are proceeding with our (?strategy) of using the media and diplomatic, military, and popular measures. He added that during his recent tour, he sensed a new [word indistinct] from the leaders of the countries he was visiting regarding peace in Sudan.

His excellency went on to say that the recent developments in the Horn of Africa were regarded as a positive development towards peace in the (?region). Col. Khalifah said that his recent visit to the (?neighboring) countries was aimed at making peace between Sudan and the states in the region as well as reaffirming the principle of good-neighborliness and respect for the national integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states.

His excellency said that his visit to Kenya had resulted in a commitment not to provide the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] with any military bases or to let them transmit radio broadcasts. Likewise, an agreement was reached providing for the formation of a joint (?security) committee as a declaration of intent. He said that Ugandan officials had assured him that they would not allow the rebels to [word indistinct] Ugandan territory. He further said that an agreement was concluded with the Zairian authorities to form a joint security committee to [passage indistinct] and to disarm any person crossing the Zairian borders, this being in the framework of good-neighborliness and non- interference in internal affairs.

Col. Khalifah said that his visit to the Central African Republic had resulted in concluding an agreement on joint action to combat smuggling and illegal hunting. Regarding the trip to Ndjamena, his excellency said that he discussed with Chadian officials bilateral relations and the formation of a joint military supervision force to maintain border security.

His excellency said that his visit to Nigeria had come because President Babangida was the current OAU chairman. Moreover, Nigeria was planning to host the Sudanese Government and the SPLA in anticipated negotiations. He briefed the Nigerian president on the government's efforts to bring about peace: Whereby the revolution had embarked on the implementation of the federal system; had exempted Islamic laws from those areas which have Muslim minorities and (?have a majority of) Christians and Animists; and introduced a political system, which will ensure participatory democracy in addition to promoting a balanced development, giving priority to tackling the least developed areas and the distribution of national income. His excellency said that the (?Nigerian) president understood the government's efforts and had pledged to strive for peace with other African leaders. His excellency pointed out that President Babangida is currently working on finishing the agenda for negotiations between the government and the rebel movement.

Reacting to the journalists' questions, Col. Khalifah said that the points of disagreement between the government and the SPLA were that the movement was still sticking to the procedural points such as the abrogation of Islamic law and the protocol of cooperation between Sudan and Libya. The colonel noted that the Sudanese Government had transcended this issue by promulgating [as received] integration with the Jamahiriyah and by exempting the southern states from Islamic law. He pointed out that this issue of disagreement would be (?left) to the Nigerian Government to solve, stressing that there was an agreement on mechanical issues [as received].

His excellency commented upon the government's three-stage program: first, the return of trust, for which many conferences had been convened; second, pertinent discussion on the country's major issues; and third, the stage of reconstruction after achieving peace. Col. Khalifah underlined that Sudan did not object to any positive contribution towards peace from any party, provided that it comes through the OAU Chairman Babangida.

Khalifah Notes '60,000' Rebels Disarmed

EA1708213791 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Aug (SUNA)—Staff Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and chairman of the peace and external relations department, has disclosed that more than 60,000 rebel movement supporters have laid down their weapons and joined the ranks of the homeland despite the movement's attempt to obstruct the returnees.

His excellency stated during a press conference today that the revolution did not link the issue of the south with any particular [word indistinct], adding that Lieutenant General Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC and the Ministerial Council, [word indistinct] (?when) he addressed the national dialogue conference on peace said that the revolution wanted a just and comprehensive solution and did not want a solution which would (?favor) any tribe or religion over another, which is why the government's peace agenda is wide-ranging with regard to all roots of the problem.

Troops Reportedly Massacre Zaghawas in Darfur

AB1908203091 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 19 Aug 91

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Excerpts] The Sudanese Government clearly has a major problem in the western province of Darfur which borders on Chad and Libya. The government claims that it is simply a problem of law and order. But two weeks ago, a senior government minister was dispatched to the area to deal with the situation, and there are claims that the trouble has a political dimension. Certainly, there have been serious clashes involving the security forces. From Khartoum, Alfred Taban telexed this report:

[Begin studio announcer recording] The deputy governor of Darfur State, (Ahmed Ibrahim al-Tahir), says that last Friday [16 August], security forces in the state carried out an attack on a camp belonging to a group of armed bandits. (Al-Tahir) said that nine bandits and a policeman were killed in the engagement, which he said occurred near Marra Mountains in central Darfur. He said that the rest of the bandits fled. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Well, a human rights magazine here in London called THE SUDAN MONITOR claims that the trouble in Darfur is not simply a problem of banditry. THE SUDAN MONITOR says that what is going on in Darfur is a battle between government troops and one of the tribes in the area, the Zaghawa. THE SUDAN MONITOR says it has a document to back up their claim. Robin White asked (Emma Sharp) of the magazine, exactly what their document was.

[Begin recording] [(Sharp)] It is a five-page hand-written letter in Arabic from, I quote, the Zaghawa people in Khartoum and other regions, describing the torture and massacres of the people over the past year.

[White] To who was this document sent?

[(Sharp)] It was sent to THE SUDAN MONITOR and the president and other members of the government.

[White] And specifically what are they complaining about?

[(Sharp)] Well, they document in very graphic details, various instances [as heard] committed by the army and the police on the Zaghawa people starting as far back as August 1990 when six young men were killed in a village called Kabkabiyah.

[White] So trouble has been going on for some considerable time?

[(Sharp)] Yes, it has been going on for the past year. On 26 September for instance, the army went into Zaghawa territory and burned down 22 Zaghawa villages. And in fact, to quote some of the contents of the document: They said that a 25-year-old man called 'Ali Umar was slaughtered like a sheep, and a seven-year-old boy, Abdallah Adam Ali Gumaya, was thrown into a fire. Dozens were severely tortured and flogged. Harun Abacar Wade was tortured until he fell unconscious and was then flung into a fire until his wife pulled him out.

[White] The Sudanese Government claims that what is going on in Darfur is a problem of banditry. Now, does that square with what these people say?

[(Sharp)] No, these people say it is a political persecution. In fact, under the former president, Sadiq al-Mahdi, the Zaghawa were a favored people. He gave

them arms to fight the SPLA, the Sudan People's Liberation Army, and he supported them because they supported his party, the Uma Party. They have traditionally been loyal to his family, the Mahdi family. So with the coup in June [as heard] 1989, this government has been trying to wipe out their arms level and has been targeting them to try and win them round to the National Islamic Front. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Tunisia

Foreign Ministry Statement on USSR Events

LD2008013191 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] As for international reactions, we begin with Tunisia, where an authorized source from the Soviet [as heard] Foreign Ministry has made the following statement:

Tunisia, which is committed to the principles and foundations upon which its foreign policy is based, foremost among which is respect for the policy of justice, noninterference in internal affairs, and the principle of recognizing states, is following with great interest the developing situation inside the Soviet Union, because of its significant influence on the world arena and international relations.

Stemming from the importance it attaches to relations of friendship and cooperation linking it with this friendly country, and out of its desire to consolidate these relations, Tunisia wishes to express, in these circumstances, its hopes that the Soviet Union will be able to preserve its stability and security, and that the Soviet peoples will be able to attain the progress and prosperity they aspire to.

President Receives al-Qadhdhafi Letter 16 Aug

LD1708094991 Tripoli JANA in English 0802 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Tunis, Hanibal [August] 17, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—The President of the Republic of Tunisia Zinel El Abidine Ben Ali yesterday morning received Major al Khowaildi al Homaidi, who is on a working visit to sisterly Tunisia within the framework of consolidating and bolstering ties between the two countries. Major Al Khowaildi al Homaidi conveyed a letter from the leader of the revolution to the President of the Republic of Tunisia Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Long talks, which lasted for two hours, took place at the presidential palace in Carthage between Major Al Khowaildi al Homaidi and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali focusing on the study and follow up of all bilateral issues especially regarding the meetings of the Arab Libyan Tunisian supreme committee for follow up due to be held in the forthcoming period. Also the meeting reviewed the new developments on Arab and international arenas and issues of common interest.

Algeria's Ibrahimi, PLO's 'Arafat Meet 15 Aug

LD1708142691 Algiers APS in English 1112 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Tunis, 17 August (APS)—The Algerian foreign affairs minister, Lakhdar Ibrahimi had talks on Thursday in Tunis with the head of the state of Palestine, Yasir 'Arafat on the evolution of the Palestinian question, the Palestinian news agency WAFA indicated on Friday. 'Arafat stressed, according to the Palestinian agency, "Algeria's and the Arab countries' part "in the defence of al-Qods and "the Palestinian national rights" and the "necessity of the inter-Arab coordination".

Kuwait

Statement Urges Security, Stability in USSR

LD1908172191 London KUNA in Arabic 1654 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Kuwait, 19 Aug (KUNA)—Kuwait announced today that it is following with interest and caution the development of events in the Soviet Union. It has expressed its hope that security and stability will reign throughout the Soviet Union.

A statement issued by the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry indicates that "Kuwait has followed with interest and caution the latest events and developments in the Soviet Union, considering the international position of the Soviet Union and its effective role regarding the international political arena during this decisive phase in world history in general and in the Arab region in particular."

The statement adds: "These developments will have direct effects on future world policies. While Kuwait is going through a decisive phase in its history, it recalls with esteem the positive role of the Soviet Union at the UN Security Council regarding its cause."

The Kuwaiti statement emphasises "Kuwait's gratitude regarding the declared peaceful and just policy of the Soviet Union toward the region."

The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry statement says that "while Kuwait stresses that what is happening in the Soviet Union is an internal affair related to the Soviet Union and its people alone, it sincerely expresses the hope that security and stability will reign in the Soviet Union for it to be able to continue rebuilding and to achieve prosperity in the interest of its peoples and the whole world ."

Army To Blow Up Iraqi Rockets

LD1508210391 London KUNA in Arabic 1847 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Aug (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Interior Ministry announced today that the explosives teams of the Kuwaiti Army will blow up a number of artillery rockets left behind by the Iraqi regime's forces in an area that separates two residential suburbs of Kuwait. The ministry's statement said that there area that separates the suburbs of al-'Ariziyyah and al-Rabiyah will be sealed off militarily between 1300 and 1400 in order to carry out the detonation. The ministry warned people against approaching this area and urged adherence to security instructions in order to maintain public safety.

More Than 1,000 Thai Workers Return to Positions

BK1408112091 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Somchai Rattanathai, secretary general of the Office of Thai Labor Counselor in Kuwait, told Thailand's Public Relations Department reporter during the latter's visit to Saudi Arabia that the general situation in Kuwait has returned to normal.

He said the tap water and electricity systems are operating regularly. Traffic has become heavy. The only remaining inconveniences are telefax and telephone communications with Kuwait. All burning 300 oil wells, which have caused air pollution in the country, are expected to be entirely extinguished by March next year. However, air pollution in the capital city of Kuwait is not so serious due to its seaside location.

Since the Office of Thai Labor Counselor resumed its operations on 2 April this year, foreign traders and agencies have contacted the office for more than 4,023 Thai workers to return to work in Kuwait. Of this number, more than 1,000 Thai workers have already resumed their work. They include 149 war veterans, who have been on assignments to collect and destroy land mines.

The assistant Thai labor counselor said the office would be able to find no less than 10,000 jobs in Kuwait for Thai workers. The number of jobs for Thais is small because the wage rates for workers from other Asian countries are lower than the Thais. [passage omitted]

Oman

Iranian Oil Minister Arrives With Message

JN1908141391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1340 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Salalah, 19 Aug (WAKH)—Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i today arrived in Salalah on a visit to Oman, during which he will meet with Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id.

The OMANI NEWS AGENCY cites the Iranian oil minister as saying that he carries a written message for the Omani sultan from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani concerning relations between the two countries and current developments in the region.

Meets Sultan Qabus

JN1908190991 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Salalah, 19 Aug (WAKH)—Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman received a message from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani concerning relations between the two countries and current developments in the region.

The message was delivered by Iranian Oil Minister Ghola Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i during his meeting with Sultan Qabus here today.

Qatar

Diplomatic Relations With Nicaragua Established

JN1508150791 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1235 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Doha, 15 Aug (WAKH)—The State of Qatar and Nicaragua decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level.

A joint statement issued today affirmed the two countries' willingness to establish bilateral relations, in accordance with the UN Charter and on the bases of peaceful coexistence, equality, mutual respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity, and noninterference in each other's domestic affairs.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Briefs Government on Soviet Events

LD1908192691 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1635 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 19 Aug (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al'-Aziz, the custodian of the Two Holy mosques, this afternoon chaired a meeting of Council of Ministers at the al-Salam Palace in Jeddah. Following the meeting His Excellency Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir said in his statement to SPA that the council, as usual at the beginning of every session, reviewed the latest development at Arab and international levels, and familiarized itself with regard to reports on the development that took place in the Soviet Union since dawn today.

In light of this the council listened to the custodian of the Two Holy mosques' comprehensive analysis of the nature of events, especially during the current stage as a result of the emergency changes. In this regard he expressed the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's profound interest in everything that has taken place and in following up matters until facts become clear and situations become stable, so that the Kingdom can ascertain the features of the present picture.

The information minister added: After that the King informed the Council of Ministers of the outcome of meetings and talks which he had with the senior guests and envoys who came to the Kingdom during the past few days. [passage omitted]

King Fahd Receives Iranian President's Message

LD1908234891 Tehran IRNA in English 1713 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi (UAE), Aug. 19, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message for King Fahd calling for expansion of Tehran-Riyadh ties and cooperation in regional and international forums was handed over to the Saudi leader in Riyadh.

The message was delivered by Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i Sunday night in the Saudi capital. The two also held an hour and a half of talks during which Fahd announced Riyadh's willingness to broaden ties with Tehran.

The Saudi ruler said his country's attitudes towards Middle East and Persian Gulf issues and the question of Palestine were close to those of the Islamic Republic.

Before his arrival in Saudi Arabia, Aqazadeh visited Kuwait where he handed a similar message from the Iranian president to Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

The Iranian oil minister left Riyadh for Oman at noon Monday to deliver President Rafsanjani's written message to Sultan Qabus.

Crown Prince Meets Afghan Visitor 18 Aug

LD1808120791 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, heir apparent, deputy prime minister, and commander of the national guard, received in his office at the royal court in Al-Salam palace this afternoon Mr Burhanuddin Rabbani, foreign minister of the Afghan provisional government, and his accompanying delegation.

Exports Increase by 56.5 Percent in 1990

LD1308200291 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 aug 91

[Excerpts] The value of exports by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1990 mounted to about 166.339 billion riyals, registering an increase of 56.5 percent compared with 1989. This was stated in the annual bulletin of the kingdom's foreign trade in 1990 published by the General Statistics Establishment at the Ministry of Finance and National Economy. [passage omitted].

The kingdom's exports to the Arab League member states increased by 108 percent, to the non-Arab Islamic states by 85 percent, to the non-Arab Asian Islamic states by 69 percent, to the non-Arab and non-Islamic African states by 126 percent, to Australia and the Pacific islands by three percent, to North America by 49 percent, to Latin America by 124 percent, to the west European states by 35 percent, and to the east European states by 266 percent.

The total value of imports by the Kingdom during 1990 amounted to 90.139 billion riyals, thus registering an increase of 10.920 billion riyals, that is, 13.8 percent compared with 1989.

Yanayev Message on Future Soviet Security Role

JN2008081291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Aug (INA)—The Foreign Ministry under secretary has received a message addressed to President Saddam Husayn from the new Soviet President Gennadiy Yanayev on the recent events in the Soviet Union.

INA has learned that the Soviet president affirmed in his message that the measures the new Soviet leadership have taken are designed to quickly restore stability to the Soviet Union, to normalize the social and economic situation, and to create circumstances for comprehensive development in the country.

The Soviet president pointed out that the current difficulties are temporary and that the Soviet Union's role in maintaining security and bolstering international security will be as significant as it was in the past.

The Soviet president also affirmed the Soviet Union's readiness to develop its relations with all the world's countries based on the principles of equality, mutual benefit, and non-interference in other's internal affairs.

The message was delivered to the under secretary of the Foreign Ministry by the charge d'affaires of the Soviet Embassy in Baghdad.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Views Soviet Developments

JN2008070391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2200 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has affirmed that the Soviet Union has, due to Gorbachev's perestroyka, retreated from the position of a superpower sitting at the helm of international influence and became a country begging for international aid from the West and the United States.

In a commentary published here in a special evening supplement devoted to Soviet developments, the paper says that the world has been experiencing shocks since Gorbachev assumed power in the Soviet Union in 1985. These shocks manifested themselves in the 1989 Malta summit, which served as a historic turning point in the life of the Soviet Union, the socialist bloc states, developing nations, and the Arab nation—which is part of this world, the paper adds. Gorbachev's rapid identification with U.S. foreign policy was epitomized when he abandoned the socialist European countries, particularly Germany, and also recently when he forsake the Third World peoples' friendship.

The paper notes that perestroyka was instrumental in the efforts to prepare the international arena for the establishment of a new world order led by the United States. The paper adds that perestroyika consequently has proven to be highly detrimental to the structure and content of international relations, and has resulted in a humiliating retreat for the Soviet Union before U.S. foreign policy. The paper says that perestroika shunned the real value of detente and its positive functions and hastened to bury its socialist principles on the pretext that it was the myth of the new age. As a matter of fact, perestroyka was the first stage in a policy which sought to Americanize the world, the paper notes.

The paper stresses that the most recent result of the harmful perestroika was Gorbachev's shameful support for the United States in its efforts to starve and besiege the Iraqi people—who are friends of the Soviet peoples, who, before the advent of perestroyka, were known for their loyalty to their friends.

Concluding its commentary, the paper says: Gorbachev's role has not been confined to facilitating the passage of unjust resolutions by the Security Council and to supporting the sinful aggression on the steadfast Iraqi people. This role has gone further by employing spiteful tactics that affected the military and political results of the war. An example of this was Gorbachev's support for the United States, which adopted extremely stringent stands toward Iraq and used military force to attack the Iraqi people.

Envoy Criticizes UN Resolution, IAEA Inspection

AU1508115791 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 19 Aug 91 p 2

[Report by "GB": "Iraqi Ambassador Rejects Criticism of Nuclear Policy"]

[Text] Rahim al-Kital, the Iraqi ambassador to Vienna, has rejected the international criticism of Baghdad which maintains that it intends to hush up its nuclear policy. He said that UN Resolution 687 is illegal, unfair, and imbalanced because it does not even grant Iraq the rights it is entitled to as a signatory of the Nonproliferation Treaty. He said that Iraq is not even to be granted access now and in the future to materials that it needs for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Commenting on the work of the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] inspectors in his country, al-Kital, who has represented his country at the Vienna-based agency for many years, said that, even though they have a clear mandate, they have often exceeded this mandate and have only expressed their speculations and assessments. He added that, moreover, most of the inspectors are of U.S. origin or are close to Israel.

Al-Kital said that in its 7 July statement, Baghdad disclosed everything on its nuclear program and is keeping nothing secret. He said that the plutonium that was produced is of such a negligible quantity that it could never be used for the production of weapons. This was also stressed by IAEA chief Blix, said Al-Kital, who added that there is now full cooperation between the inspectors and Baghdad.

National Assembly Denounces UN Resolutions

JN1908140091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Aug (INA)—The National Assembly has strongly denounced the latest unjust Security Council resolutions against Iraq as an encroachment on the sovereignty and independence of a UN member state.

In a statement issued today, the Assembly said the resolutions constitute a serious precedent in the international organization's history and a flagrant violation of the principles and laws upon which the organization was established, especially those protecting people and ensuring their stability.

The statement questioned the real motive behind the continuation of the economic blockade against the Iraqi people and the insistence on preventing these people from taking advantage of the exception mentioned in Paragraph 33 of Security Council Resolution 687.

The statement warns against continuing the blockade and said that its maintenance exceeds the objectives set by the Security Council. The statement added that the serious negative consequences of the blockade, including the outbreak of contagious diseases, will spread throughout the state sooner or later.

Assembly Calls on Legislatures To Lift Blockade

JN1908165691 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] The National Assembly has renewed its call on Arab and foreign parliamentary officials and institutions to work to lift the unjust economic blockade against Iraq and its brave people, and to prevent interference in the country's internal affairs. This call came in letters from National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih to the secretary general of the Arab Parliamentary Union and the leaders of parliaments throughout the Arab countries and the world.

Mr. Salih said the continuation of the blockade against Iraq would lead to undesirable disaster due to its possible tragic effects on the Iraqi people. Because of the blockade, he said, Iraqi women, children, and elderly citizens are subjected to starvation, disease, and epidemics. He said at a time when the Iraqi people were expecting the Security Council to make a gesture by lifting the blockade, it instead recently passed resolutions tightening it. These resolutions, Salih added, essentially represent an uncivilized phenomenon in a world living the final quarter of the 20th century.

Papers Comment Further on UN Resolutions

JN1808083791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Aug (INA)—Iraqi newspapers published today were unanimous in their view that the three resolutions the Security Council passed on Thursday have nothing to do with humanitarian sentiments, and that they, indeed, reflect a link in the Washington-led aggression against Iraq.

In their editorials, the newspapers AL-THAWRAH, AL-QADISIYAH, and AL-JUMHURIYAH stated that these resolutions' objectives do not reflect the will of international legitimacy but rather the desire of the imperialist powers and the colonialist states to subdue Iraq and keep it under their custodianship.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, said that the three unjust resolutions whose passage was demanded by the U.S. Administration and its European allies and which were obtained through the well-known tactics of inducement, pressure, and intimidation, fully show that the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against Iraq is continuing, though it sometimes takes the form of unfair resolutions which keep the door open to armed aggression.

The paper added that the United States and its allies seek to control Iraq's oil resources and policy and also to fetter its people's will and their freedom to use these resources as they wish.

AL-THAWRAH asserted that the resolutions' prime objective is to infringe upon Iraq's sovereignty, to drive a wedge between the Iraqi people and their leaders, and to shackle Iraq with new burdens under the guise of international legitimacy.

AL-THAWRAH expressed the conviction that Washington, its Western allies, and the Zionist powers, seek to intimidate and terrorize other Third World countries, and to prevent them from using their own resources to achieve economic development.

AL-QADISIYAH, the Ministry of Defense organ, said that the third Security Council resolution lays the groundwork for a new brutal military aggression against Iraq on the pretext that Iraq is not complying with the Security Council resolutions.

The paper added: This resolution, which goes to great lengths to propagate falsehoods and allegations, overlooks Iraq's sincere cooperation with UN efforts and ignores the results of the international committees' visits. The detailed preamble of the resolution, moreover, contains the same falsehoods and allegations.

AL-QADISIYAH added that the recent Security Council resolutions are not aimed at achieving peace in the region, but, on the contrary, they seek to perpetuate the imperialist American presence in the region by blackmailing Iraq and threatening it with a fresh aggression which would strike the country's renaissance and thwart its efforts to establish democracy and political pluralism.

For its part, AL-JUMHURIYAH described the three resolutions, with their intentions and objectives, as unprecedented in the history of world organizations. The

paper added that the resolutions seek to do further injustice and harm to a UN member.

The paper referred to the wording used in each one of these resolutions and said that Resolution 706 is no more than a document imposing many kinds of colonialist trusteeship on Iraq. The paper added that the resolution failed to show concern for the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people, and, furthermore, it formalizes custodianship and goes to the limit in maintaining the blockade, although on crueler terms.

U.S. 17-18 Aug Air Activity Protested to UN

JN1908141891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1208 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] New York, 19 Aug (INA)—Iraq has once again protested U.S. aircraft violations of Iraqi airspace to the United Nations.

In a memorandum to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations said that on 17-18 August, U.S. aircraft carried out 12 sorties in six two-plane formations. The planes travelled at speeds between 600-750 km per hour, at altitudes of 3-4.5 km, flying primarily over Mosul, Irbil, al-'Imadiyah, Dahuk, Rawanduz, and north of Tall 'Afar. They were engaged in surveillance and provocation activities.

The Iraqi envoy said that at 1140 on the same day, an unidentified air target travelling at a speed of 600 km per hour violated Iraqi airspace from the region of Jabal Sanam toward Artawiya. It disappeared north of Artawiya at 1155.

The envoy added that at 1314 on the same day, an unidentified air target, travelling at a speed of 600 km per hour, violated Iraqi airspace from Jirishan south of Artawiya before returning to and disappearing in Kuwaiti airspace at 1320.

Assembly Speaker Meets With Jordanian Minister

JN1408171491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1505 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Aug (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has said that he has valued fraternal Jordan's support during Iraq's confrontation of the American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression and the unjust economic blockade.

During a meeting he held today with 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi, Jordanian labor and cabinet affairs minister, Salih added that the American aggressors and their allies have failed to undermine the will of the Iraqi, who is reconstructing what the aggressors destroyed while demonstrating faith, resolve, and determination.

As for 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi, he said that Jordan's position toward Iraq derives from heartfelt pan-Arab principles and from Jordan's pan-Arab commitments. He added that the continuation of the economic blockade on Iraq, the starvation of its people, and the denial of access to medicine and food contravenes all international laws and norms as well as human rights.

New Methods Urged To Avoid Youth Alientation

JN1708133691 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 15 Aug 91 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Sabah Yasin: "The Party and a Break in Communication Between Two Generations"]

[Text] One of the most important subjects discussed by the party conferences was how to deal with the new generation—students and youth—and how to be receptive to, and influential on them in order to win them over to the party and to the field of national action and construction.

The various serious viewpoints that dealt with this issue notwithstanding, there is one very outstanding fact: The clear defect in the manner by which the large number of students and youth are absorbed into party organizations working in this or that sector or geographical location across the country. Additionally, the current methods have failed to educate, prepare, and organize that age group, which exemplifies the vigor of the party and constitutes the main source for maintaining its renewable life.

We must admit that there is communications gap between the two generations; one a generation that was shaped and created amid the multitude of struggles and battles to defend and build the party, and the other a generation whose hands have not felt the heat of those glorious days. If the party fails to tackle, quickly and with ability, this problem, we will face a whole generation alien to its own party and homeland.

This is an issue which the party institutions must discuss and upon which a decisive opinion must be made.

Editor Calls for Strengthening Ba'th Party Cells

JN1508111691 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 12 Aug 91 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Sabah Yasin: "Let Us Strengthen The Party Cell's Role As A Source Of Energy and Creativity"]

[Text] The party conferences have raised a number of intellectual and militant questions which Ba'thists face in their daily activity.

In view of their tasks, which give priority to electoral aspects, these conferences have not had the time to discuss in detail a number of organizational issues which resulted from the past phases and the conditions and circumstances dictated by the national situation and the imposed challenges.

Among these pressing issues is the restoration of vitality to the role of the party cell in accordance with the bylaws, by eliminating the exceptional formulae to enable the cell to express its effectiveness in a resourceful and creative way. The Ba'thist cell is the source of energy, liveliness, and creativity in party action. The party cell has played a glorious role in the history of the Ba'th movement's underground struggle and has embodied the party's presence in the surroundings in which it operated. Therefore, the action that can achieve the goal of building a party united in ideology and organization stems from the successful party cell.

The party cell is the fruit of the party's tree. Through that cell, the party's garden can yield all fruit.

Editor on Paper's Relationship With Ba'th Party

JN1908192391 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 18 Aug 91 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Sabah Yasin: "Is This Really the Paper of the Ba'thists?"]

[Text] As the party congresses have been preoccupied with organizational matters and election activities, theoretical and intellectual issues did not receive their fair share of discussion, attention, and analysis. The Ba'thists rarely made any direct criticism of issues related to cultural activities or the sources of party education, including AL-THAWRAH, the daily newspaper of the party. If it is adequate on the anniversary of that paper—which was marked yesterday—to deal with the Ba'thists' relationship with this paper, we must acknowledge the negative reality governing that relationship. Although this paper is the mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, it actually does not differ from other Iraqi papers, and there is nothing to distinguish it in terms of content and form of expression to make it acquire its identity as a cultural and informational establishment related to the Ba'thist institution's leading role in politics and the society.

Undoubtedly, when we seek to restore that role, we should bravely admit that this cannot be achieved within a short time nor with little effort. Thus, this requires action which should begin on the pages of the paper itself, and the adoption of a new course which reflects the party's stand. This stand is not supposed to be identical with the the executive organs' stand, but should assume a leading role in confronting deviations and guiding rectification and reconstruction.

We are now taking a simple, ambitious step beginning with the paper itself. This step should necessarily be complemented by a step within the party institution to restore the relationship that must always be meaningful and for the better.

This paper's success is not only the responsibility of its staff, but the responsibility of all Ba'thists because together we aim to make AL-THAWRAH the newspaper of all Ba'thists and all Iraqis and Arabs.

Opposition Radio on Operations Against Military

NC1908163891 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1418 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Our heroic rebels in the Imam al-Mahdi force of the triumphant popular forces have carried out a heroic operation (?under the banner of) Hujjat Ibn-al-Hasan al-'Askari, during which they attacked the 6th Armored Division forces, whose headquarters is near the oil fields in the Qubbah area close to the al-Basrah-al-Nasiriyah highway. In the operation conducted during the first half of August, Colonel [first name indistinct] Hamid 'Abbas was killed and 58 other personnel of the Ba'thist forces were captured. The strugglers seized various weapons and withdrew safely after having successfully carried out their operation.

In another development, a strong explosion rocked the southern areas of al-Basrah Governorate at 1403 on Saturday, 17 August 1991. We have not received any further information about the explosion.

Meanwhile, a military spokesman for the rebellious committees has provided us with the following information: A group of our heroic rebels from the Karbala' martyrs force of the heroic popular forces at the end of July attacked a military vehicle loaded with ammunition on al-Rumaylah road northwest of al-Basrah, killing its Ba'thist mercenary occupants, including First Lieutenant Rashid Majid.

At the same time, another group of the Abu-'Abdallah al-Husayn force killed criminal 'Iyad 'Abdallah, a criminal who has harmed the people and the mujahidin.

Turkish Paper Cites Kurdish Criticism of PKK

NC1608073491 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 13 Aug 91 p 14

[Naci Sapan report: "The PKK, A Nuisance for Kurdistan"]

[Text] Hayrezong [placename as published] (Iraq), (HURRIYET NEWS AGENCY)—Neshirvan Barzani, Mas'ud Barzani's representative in northern Iraq and a member of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK] Political Bureau, has criticized the Workers Party of Kurdistan [PKK], noting: "I am well aware that the PKK's intentions toward us are not good. We Kurds approve neither of their objectives nor of the means with which they hope to achieve them. We are very displeased with what they have done. We have a historic mission and have represented the Kurdish people from the start. What the PKK members have done is wrong."

Several spokesmen for Kurdish groups in Iraq have described the PKK as "a nuisance for Kurdistan" and claimed that PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan is living in luxury with money from Saddam Husayn.

Siyamend Benaa, a spokesman for DPK leader Mas'ud Barzani, said that the PKK does not share the Kurdish

people's religious and other traditions and that it does not draw its strength from the people.

Where Was the PKK When the Kurds Were Being Destroyed?

Benaa asserted: "It should be stressed that although the Kurds are devout Muslims, the PKK supports Marxism-Leninism and is a communist group. Communism has died out, even in the Soviet Union; it has become a historical curiosity, a dinosaur. Nevertheless, Ocalan claims the Kurds will be saved through communism. He says this in al-Biqa', where he lives in luxury with money he receives from Saddam Husayn. How can the Kurds be saved by anyone who cooperates with the man who massacred them? Where was Mr. Ocalan when Saddam Husayn used chemical weapons against the Kurds and destroyed thousands of their villages?"

Muhammad Khalid, the Kurdish Front's military representative in Zakho, described the PKK as a nuisance for the Kurdish people and said that it had no ties with the Kurdish Front. Noting that the PKK's presence in the region was a source of anxiety for Kurds in Iraq, Khalid said: "The Kurdish people do not support the PKK, whose militants Saddam Husayn has allowed to set up camps here. He even let it use the Baghdad Hotel in Zakho as its headquarters in the past. The PKK cooperated with Saddam Husayn while we were being killed, and it still cooperates with him. The Kurdish Front has instructed that PKK members should be arrested on sight."

Inspection Team Members Said 'Intelligence Men'

JN1308121791 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 11 Aug 91 p 1

[Article by Mazhar 'Arif: "On the Inspection Committees"]

[Text] I would not be saying anything new when I say that the Security Council has been transformed into a branch of the U.S. State Department.

It uses the same language and implements the resolutions against Iraq, with the exception of some of the Third World countries and temporary members of the Security Council who refuse to submit to U.S. control over the Council from the inside and outside. The permanent members changed their language to English to understand the United States, rather than make it understand the illegality of its hegemony over the highest podium in the world, which is what they wanted it to be when it was first established after World War II—an institution responsible for international peace and security—and the illegality of the U.S. resolutions it draws up, plans, and implements under the Security Council umbrella against a member of the United Nations.

The case with the permanent members today has become like that of Nuri al-Sa'id's members of parliament who knew how to say nothing but "I agree" to everything said by the "boss", his government—or other governments for that matter—which were not beyond the influence of Sir [preceding word in English] Nuri al-Sa'id, such is the title Britain gave to Abu-Sabah [Nuri al-Sa'id] during the monarchic era.

As is known on all levels, Iraq did not object to the inspection committee by virtue of its agreeing to the Security Council resolution. Iraq has given the inspection committees every facility to perform their duties on its territories, and this has been admitted by several members of these committees. We can notice the following, however, under all circumstances:

First: The limits confining these committees' action are not generally known. These committees often make new demands every time one of them visits Iraq.

Second: Before each committee has arrived here and after one has only just left, an enormous media campaign has been launched by American and Western officials and by the U.S. and Western media organs. The essence of these campaigns is that there are other places that the new committee will visit and that this committee needs to inspect the previous committees' work.

Third: With every visit by these committees, Bush, Cheney, or other U.S. sources who do not want to reveal their identity (notice the game here) appear before the public and talk about the discovery of materials or nuclear installations by the inspection committees which, according to their allegations, were not included in the Iraqi letters to the Security Council (notice here also the discrepancy in Iraq's cooperation with the inspectors, which they themselves admitted, and its non-cooperation, as the U.S. and other politicans claim).

In other cases, when it comes to their attempts to distort Iraq's cooperation with the inspection teams, some inspectors renege on those who asked them to distort information in order to find a political excuse for a new aggression on Iraq.

Fifth [number as published]: The U.S. boasting about satellite information on what is described as the stockpile of nuclear, bacteriological, and chemical weapons Iraq is hiding—according to U.S. and Western allegations—does not coincide, when this information is broken down, with the U.S. insistence on flooding Iraq with international inspectors, as Cheney continuously states. These satellites can, in order to ease Bush and Cheney's concern about Iraq's weapons, provide this information to the inspection teams all at once and pinpoint where Iraq is stockpiling its weapons of mass destruction so that these committees can dispose of them. Such a process would save time for the committees and for the Security Council itself. It would leave its members more time for additional meetings to discuss international issues of greater importance and urgency than the Iraqi weapons of mass destruction over which Iraq has cooperated, and continues to cooperate, with the Security Council and the United Nations.

The fact that the United States has not moved to place the information provided by its alleged satellites at the disposal of the inspection teams and the Security Council through cooperating and coordinating with Iraq means that Washington is not serious about real peace with Iraq and that it has political motives against our country. At the same time, it uses political and military blackmail against our country and continues to apply political and military blackmail on the countries in the region and the international community under the pretext that Iraq is not implementing the Security Council resolutions.

I am not exaggerating when I say here that the United States is also using international terrorism against those other countries—not only against Iraq. These countries should be aware of this before it is too late.

There is undoubtedly a simple and important fact, which is that specialists understand each other very well in the day to day issues of life whenever they meet. What we hear on the radio and read in the newspapers, however, such as U.S. and Western statements and international reports from various sources, reveals that some of those working in the inspection team are Atlantic and American intelligence men. It is not ruled out either that some of them belong to the Zionist Mosad and are spying under the cover of technology. It seems that this is what Washington wants. It was summed up in Cheney's statements about flooding Iraq with international inspectors.

Writer Views Effects of Islamic Awakening

JN1308135591 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic
11 Aug 91 p 1

[Article by Abu-Hatim: "Islam Between the End and Means"]

[Text] Every time our enemies find Iraq great and steadfast, they escalate their plotting against it, and the American-Zionist onslaught against Iraq becomes fiercer.

Regardless of the results of the Islamic states' foreign ministers conference, there is an established fact that must be understood; namely that what they are seeking does not only constitute their end in fighting Iraq, but the fact is that they found a genuine revolutionary Islamic awakening in the Arab region, something that the nation needs, especially because it is based on an Islamic ideology linked to a pan-Arab ideology which springs from the suffering of the Arab nation and people throughout their development.

After they discovered this Islamic awakening, particularly in the highly sensitive areas of the nation, their goal was not just to fight Iraq. We find that the Islamic conference, which constitutes, not the highest, but the more forward circles of the Islamic world, even if this was represented at the official level in the Islamic states, confirmed this after Iraq became a forum for the nation's youths and revolutionaries as well as for their future aspirations. They sought to stab Islam by fighting the nation's "burning candle" in these difficult days and during its confrontation of Zionism and world imperialism with the objective of instigating the youths to revolt against Islam and the Islamic movement and its genuine pillars.

Of course, in addition to their being agents, certainly they will fight every movement that looks forward to a better future. If we analyze this politically, however, we can say that they are right, especially since such an Islamic awakening could mean the annihilation of the Saudi clan's rule in the Arabian Peninsula. The Gulf war showed that there are true men of religion and fundamental Islamic trends in the Arabian Peninsula that work against the ruling Saudi clan's policy and its links with America. From this premise, reinforcing such a situation could disturb their sleep and shake their pillars.

But we want to say something. They must understand that the Iraqi people are a people who will never die and who will never live in shadow. They have always been the example, and their people have always been the main leaders of the Arab nation and the Arab people from the Gulf to the ocean. If they wager on a group of agents and on continuing the blockade imposed by Iraq's enemies through the "Security Council," however, then the necks of the agents, on whom they wagered during the past months, know full well that the sword of right is in Iraq, and what their fate would be. Let them be accursed.

Levi Comments on Peace Process, USSR Events

TA1908095791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0902 GMT 19 Aug 91

[News conference with Foreign Minister David Levi following the announcement of the establishment of diplomatic relations with Albania; in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent] What impact will the deposing of Gorbachev have on Israeli-Soviet relations? Will we move toward the resumption of ties with the Soviet Union despite what is happening in Moscow today?
[Levi] We are closely following the developments in the Soviet Union with great concern. One could say that this is an internal Soviet matter; however, anything that happens in the Soviet Union, which is both a country and a superpower, has ramifications for the entire world. Therefore, Israel, as part of the world, is monitoring developments and hoping with a prayer in its heart that the rapprochement between the two blocs—that same openness and hope that in this generation gave us all reason to believe that the dark days and periods were behind us and that the world was moving toward cooperation and openness; that dividing walls were going to fall down and that we were approaching peace, progress, and understanding between states—will not be shattered and broken. That is our prayer for the peoples of the Soviet Union and for humanity in general. We cannot but add this prayer that is in the heart of every peace-loving human being.

There are some questions that apply to us, and I hope that whoever rules the USSR understands the significance of leaving the gates of the Soviet Union open for the Jewish people and the importance the entire world lends to the great turnabout that we have witnessed and which should not be reversed.

As for the reverberating question of how this will effect the peace process in the region: It is true that the Israeli Government welcomed and agreed to the patronage of both the superpowers in promoting the peace process between Israel and its neighbors. Regardless of what happens, however, this is a moment of truth for the countries in the region, and they must realize, remember, and bear in mind that peace is their own concern; it affects them and will determine the future of both Israel and the Arabs. There must be no delay or any obstacles. We must realize that what we have accomplished in this field at great effort demands above all a great deal of responsibility from the countries in the region, from the Arab states and from Israel. Our eyes gaze ahead in prayer and hope that there will be no deterioration in the situation there and no holdups over here.

[Correspondent] Sir, will the peace conference be postponed because of the international focus on the developments in the Soviet Union?
[Levi] I said that I hope the Middle East countries understand that peace affects them and is in their own interest and realize that they must do everything so that the developments taking place in the Soviet Union do not overshadow the steps we have taken or obstruct further progress in the peace process, which is the message and the hope for this region which has known upheavals, wars, and other serious crises.

[Correspondent] Mr. Levi, do you think that the coup in the Soviet Union will affect Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel?
[Levi] I hope not, and I hope they understand the importance of leaving the gates open for the Jews. All the elements in the Soviet Union are aware of the international significance given this issue by numerous enlightened countries and their intense interest in this matter.

Netanyahu Interviewed on Soviet Changes, Ties

TA1908130391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1110 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Gil Litman in Jerusalem on 19 August—recorded]

[Text] [Litman] We first asked Netanyahu what he believes will happen to aliya now that the conservatives have taken over the regime in the USSR.

[Netanyahu] It is too early to say what is happening in the USSR or how it will end. The information we have is preliminary. I talked this morning with our Moscow representative Arye Levin, and the information there and here is preliminary. Whatever happens, we hope there will not be any repercussion on aliya for a simple reason: Free movement of Jews from the USSR to Israel has in recent years become an important barometer of Soviet relations with the West. I have no doubt that any government that is set up in the USSR will want to maintain the good framework that has been created in recent years.

[Litman] In your view, will perestroyka cease? Can you give us a scenario of what might happen in the USSR?

[Netanyahu] I cannot do that. First of all, we are following the events with great concern, and as citizens of the world we hope that the competition between the superpowers will not return. Nobody wants to return to the cold war situation, not to mention other forms of struggle. Second, we hope the change of regime in the USSR will not affect our region. The Arab states must realize that what happens in the USSR does not change the fact that war does not pay while peace does. The situation here is linked to the development of deadly weapons, the dangers of war, and what can be achieved through friendly, neighborly relations; all that has nothing to do with what happens in the USSR. In other words, peace is in the interest of the Arab states, no matter what outside changes occur.

[Litman] How do think that event will influence the peace process—for example, the convening of a peace conference in October?

[Netanyahu] Again, it is too early to make any forecasts. We heard the Soviet statement—which is supposed to represent the new ruling circles, although we do not know exactly the makeup of the regime there—that it will not change Soviet foreign policy. If that is true, then it should of course be welcomed, but again it is too early to say straight out where it is leading.

[Litman] Are you following Gorbachev's fate and perhaps that of Yeltsin in the Foreign Ministry's situation room?

[Netanyahu] We are following all the developments and the information that reach the Foreign Ministry. At present we have contacts with our embassy in the USSR and we are following the various media that report out of the USSR. It is too early to say what the fate of the two is.

[Litman] Did the Foreign Ministry forecast the revolution or were you surprised?

[Netanyahu] We were taken by surprise. We were surprised over the timing, but I ca.. say that, personally—it is documented in an article I wrote in HA'ARETZ several months ago—I believed and still believe that our readiness to absorb aliya must take into account a possible overthrow of the Soviet regime that would lead to a very serious increase in those who want to leave. I was certainly not alone in that evaluation, but I cannot say that we forecast precisely the timing of these events.

[Litman] Netanyahu said there is no foreseeable reason why Israel should not renew full diplomatic relations with the USSR, even under the new leadership.

Visiting Minister 'Concerned' by USSR Events

TA1908115791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] The Czech and Slovakian health ministers are currently in Israel. This morning they visited Asaf Harofe Hospital, and our correspondent Dan Eshel reports on their reaction to the developments in Moscow:

The Slovakian health minister was amazed and concerned by the developments in the Soviet Union. There is a lot of fear in Czechoslovakia about a possible invasion by Soviet tanks, the minister said. He does not have, however, any accurate information on what is happening. It all depends on how extreme the course of the Soviet coup d'etat will be. If the ideological forces that were in power before glasnost reassume the leadership, that same ideology may be directed at the countries the Soviet Union lost during the era of perestroyka. In short, the minister said, it all depends on just how aggressive this revolution becomes, both militarily and ideologically. The minister added that the decisive factor in the process currently taking place in the Soviet Union will be the position adopted by the West and its ability to control the developments in the USSR.

Sources Anxious Over Future of Peace Process

TA1908160491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1455 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Israel is closely following developments in the Soviet Union and examining their possible repercussions on the future of Jewish immigration and the peace process. Jerusalem hopes neither will be affected by the latest upheavals. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports on the policy emerging in Jerusalem in view of the events in the Soviet Union:

The revolution came and turned the tables around just as we were getting close to the resumption of full diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and to real progress in the political process. Mikhail Gorbachev's overthrow gives rise to several poignant questions about the future: What will happen to Jewish immigration to Israel? What will happen to the peace process? Will diplomatic relations resume between the two countries?

What most worries Jerusalem is the future of Soviet aliyah. There is no concrete information about what should be expected on that issue at the moment. It is believed that in any case there will now be a rush on emigration offices in the Soviet Union for fear that it might close its gates to emigration. Consultations in Jerusalem are mainly centered on that issue, and for the time being Foreign Minister David Levi would like to maintain an optimistic attitude. [passage omitted]

Although there may be some optimism about the future of Jewish emigration—particularly because it is believed that a clamp on aliyah might make it difficult for the USSR to receive international aid—the picture is altogether different with regard to the political process. Political sources today expressed anxiety over the future of the political process in view of the revolution in the USSR. As is known, the Middle East peace conference is scheduled to convene in October, and the United States and the Soviet Union are supposed to issue the invitations. Officials in Jerusalem now say it is hard to believe that it will be possible to convene the conference as scheduled, seeing that the situation was very sensitive even before the revolution. It is feared in Jerusalem that not only will the Soviet Union resume its rigid position toward Israel, but that the setback in Moscow will radicalize the position of the countries of the region. This was what Foreign Minister Levi had in mind when he called on the countries of the region to pursue the peace efforts. [passage omitted]

It should also be stressed that, at the moment, the fears in Jerusalem over the future of the political process are not based on any solid data but only on evaluations. Officials in the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office are trying to draw a general picture in light of the events in the Soviet Union, although it is not yet clear where the new regime is headed. The statements by the new rulers that they intend to abide by all previous

international commitments do not square with the personal composition of the committee currently ruling the Soviet Union.

The issue of resuming relations with the Soviet Union will apparently be struck off the agenda, at least for the foreseeable future. Gorbachev's overthrow leaves Israel, which believed it was on the verge of a new global and regional balance of power, slightly confused. Although it is too early to eulogize the peace process and the rapprochement with Eastern Europe, the signs are not encouraging. As if to contradict all this, however, the foreign ministers of Israel and Albania today signed the protocol for the resumption of full diplomatic relations.

Qatzav Back; Soviet Officials Arrive 'as Planned'

TA2008062191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav this morning returned from a week-long visit to the USSR. At Ben-Gurion Airport, he said he does not expect the Soviet regime to make far-reaching changes with regard to aliyah. In a talk with our correspondent Ilan Lazarovich, the minister said that Soviet aviation officials have arrived in Israel for deliberations as planned.

Urges 'Soft Line' Toward New Leaders

TA2008105891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Transport Minister Moshe Qatzav, just back from the Soviet Union, says the new regime there will not alter its immigration policy for Jews. Qatzav said Israel should adopt, in his words, a soft policy toward those who overturned Gorbachev. He spoke with reporter Le'a Zinder upon his arrival:

[Begin recording] [Zinder] You were in Moscow for the historic 24 hours following the coup. Can you give us an idea of the atmosphere there and especially, if you would, the relationship between the citizens and the troops?
[Qatzav] Frankly, I did not see any conflict between the soldiers and the citizens in Moscow. I believe—and it is a general impression—that Soviet soldiers express understanding to the reaction of the Moscow citizens.

[Zinder] So it is your belief that the direct flights of immigrants to Israel that was supposed to be ratified next month will in fact be honored?
[Qatzav] Look, the free immigration from the Soviet Union is not only the commitment of the Soviet Union toward the Israeli Government; it is an international commitment of the Soviet Union. I believe that President Yanayev's announcement that he will respect all their international commitments includes the free immigration from the Soviet Union, so I do not believe there will be any changes in the policy of free immigration from the Soviet Union, including the Soviet Jewry.

[Zinder] Mr. Qatzav, am I right in thinking that you will recommend to the Israeli Government not to adopt a stiff line toward the new regime in Moscow that has been adopted by President Bush and other Western leaders?
[Qatzav] I do not believe that the Israeli Government adopt a tough line in the relations with the new regime in Moscow. I believe it depends on the policy of the new regime in Moscow. If they will respect all their commitments toward Israel and the international community, if they will implement their decision to restore the full diplomatic relations with Israel, I believe we have to adopt not a neutral line, but a soft line. [end recording]

Interviewed on USSR Situation

TA2008152991 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Studio interview with Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav by Dan Shilon—live]

[Excerpt] [Shilon] Someone who just got back from Moscow this morning at 0700, 24 hours after the revolution broke out, and who saw the whole thing happen is Transporation Minister Moshe Qatzav. Mr. Qatzav is here in the studio with us. Good evening.

[Qatzav] Good Evening.

[Shilon] Do you share Yosi Sarid's opinion that there is almost no chance that opposition to the rulers could lead to a violent confrontation?

[Qatzav] First of all, the situation there is just as Sarid described it, even though I am doubtful that things will remain calm. The tension between those in power and the masses on the streets is on the rise. I believe that the rulers had no choice but to adopt the tactics they employed because the majority of the public, a great percentage, support the reforms and changes. They suddenly discovered a new world they had not known for decades and it will be hard to turn things back.

[Shilon] Did you walk on the streets in Moscow last night?

[Qatzav] Yes, I did. Yesterday at this time I was walking through Moscow.

[Shilon] Did you speak to people?

[Qatzav] I gathered some impressions. I watched the reactions of the crowds.

[Shilon] A very interesting point, underlined by the reactions of the Soviet immigrants here, is that there is great support for the changes in the Soviet Union but intense hatred for Mikhail Gorbachev. Could the hatred for the man himself, because of the large queues for food, the lack of everything, and sense of general futility, serve as fertile ground for the reactionaries?

[Qatzav] I do not think that the reactionaries could pin all the blame on Mikhail Gorbachev. There were two conflicting schools of thought: the long-term view and

the short-term view. Those that took the long-term view generally saw the tangible and fundamental change that was taking place and sensed the attraction of democracy, freedom, and liberalism. They realized how much preferable a free and open life was. On the other hand there were counter forces—both in the government and in the general public—who expressed fears that all these reforms could have a negative effect on the economy, lead to a split in the nation, a loss of government control, and culminate in nihilism and anarchy. All these fears led to a clash between these two forces, which led to what happened early yesterday morning.

[Shilon] You were not there as a reporter but on official business as Israel's transportation minister, but before we get into that, how do you assess the future of the political process as a result of this revolution; if the reactionaries indeed stay in power?

[Qatzav] The political process never depended solely on the Soviet Union?

[Shilon] But it was a partner in it.

[Qatzav] It was a partner. We never demanded Soviet participation in the political process. The Soviets' presence was to a great extent forced upon us, and we agreed to it under certain conditions. These conditions have still not been fulfilled. In other words, full diplomatic relations with Israel have not been established. Second, there was another condition: that the Soviet Union tighten ties and increase cooperation with us and abandon its hostile policy toward Israel. We must wait until both these conditions have been fulfilled.

[Shilon] Yes, but right now we are talking about a new situation. Can you estimate the effect of this new situation on the process?

[Qatzav] This new development can only affect to a certain degree the Soviet Union's position in the political process and the degree of its involvement. I do not think that it would be right to draw any conclusions from this regarding the political process itself. I want to stress that the Israeli Government is sincerely interested in the promotion of the political process.

[Shilon] Does not the fact that there are such cries of joy from the PLO and from Iraq set off any alarms regarding the political process?

[Qatzav] The cries of joy have nothing to do with the political process. These parties hope that a superpower that seemed to be leaning toward the adoption of a more objective line, and had deviated from a policy of crude hostility toward Israel will revert to its former line. That is why they are so happy. The standing of the PLO and of Iraq was constantly slipping. [passage omitted]

Communist Party, MAPAM on Gorbachev Ouster

TA2008103691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] The elder statesman of Israel's Communist Party, Me'ir Wilner, says the seizure of power in Moscow was necessary to prevent anarchy in the USSR. He said that while Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms were well-intentioned, they were poorly implemented.

The head of the United Workers Party, MAPAM, says the overthrow of Mikhail Gorbachev was illegal and antidemocratic. El'azar Granot said Gorbachev led the USSR away from dictatorship and human rights violations and towards a humanistic socialism. He said he hopes the USSR will continue working towards peace in the Middle East.

Comment on 'Unfolding Drama' in Soviet Union

JN1908151191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1335 GMT 19 Aug 91

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] The attention of the entire world is now literally riveted on the unfolding drama in the Soviet Union. Without a doubt, the changes will have worldwide repercussions far beyond the internal Soviet scene. It may be premature, though, to argue that the overthrow of President Mikhail Gorbachev will mean an automatic reversion by the Kremlin to the same foreign policies of the pre-Gorbachev era. In other words, it may be too soon to say for sure that the Kremlin will automatically cast off detente and cooperation with the United States to promote a new world order, and revert to confrontation and antagonism.

It is fair to say that it all depends on how realistically the new Kremlin will conduct itself. The Soviet Union has been and continues to be sorely in need of Western economic, technical, and technological aid—now and in the foreseeable future, regardless of whether the Kremlin rulers are reformist liberals, or reactionary conservatives. If the new Kremlin decides to overlook this reality, then this is bound to have an impact on Soviet foreign policy. In other words, if the dire need of the Soviet economy for U.S. and Western aid will sway the thinking of the new rulers in Moscow, they will refrain from introducing any substantial changes to President Gorbachev's foreign policy line. If the new Kremlin, however, should choose to ignore this reality, the Soviet Union and her citizens will pay dearly for that. Such an attitude, however, will fail to gloss over the colossal failure of communism on the economic, social, and human fronts.

The bottom line is that the dramatic changes in Moscow, though not boding well, seem to be a mere reaction to glasnost, perestroyka, and the democratic and liberal reforms introduced by Gorbachev. As such, they mark a setback for the well being, human rights, and basic liberties of the average Soviet citizen.

Lubrani Denies Meeting Hizballah Leader in Paris

TA1908141591 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Aug 91 p 2

[Report by Paris correspondent Bo'az Bismuth and military correspondent Dani Sade]

[Excerpts] "Uri Lubrani had two secret meetings with a Hizballah leader in May and June this year. The meetings took place in Paris and dealt with the issue of the hostages," LE JOURNAL DE DIMANCHE wrote yesterday. Last night Lubrani denied the report. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, high-level security sources said yesterday that "contacts about the POW's and MIA's are held through various countries. We are not in the habit of divulging what contacts have or have not been held."

Committee Proposes Labor Platform Changes

TA1908082991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] The Labor Party may change its political platform pertaining to Israel's sovereignty over the 'Etzyon Bloc and the territories in the vicinity of Jerusalem. According to a proposal raised by a committee headed by Ya'aqov Tzur, the demand that Israel apply its sovereignty to these territories will be removed, and the Labor Party will call for the application of Israeli rule only on the Jordan Rift Valley and the northern part of the Dead Sea.

Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz adds that according to the proposal, the platform will no longer include an explicit negation of negotiations with the PLO and of the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Al-Husayni Possibly Heads Peace Talks Committee

TA1908113791 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Aug 91 pp A1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Excerpts] The Palestinians are drafting a proposal to set up a "supreme consultative committee" which will be made up of leaders of the population in East Jerusalem and representatives of the Palestinian diaspora affiliated with the PLO. According to the proposal, the committee will be the supreme authority for the representatives of the residents of the territories in the joint delegation with Jordan to the peace conference. According to the proposal, Faysal al-Husayni will head the committee in order to bypass the understanding between Jerusalem and Washington that only those residents who are listed in the Judaea and Samaria population register may participate in the talks. [passage omitted]

According to the proposal, discussed at the London talks, the supreme consultative committee will in fact dictate the Palestinian policy at the talks and will turn the representatives themselves into puppets of the PLO. It was also agreed in the London talks that the Palestinians will issue an unequivocal demand to the United States that the PLO be the only body authorized to appoint their representatives to the talks. [passage omitted]

At the same time, it has been learned that in internal U.S. discussions, the possibility was raised that the territories be declared "a national home" for the Palestinians. This idea was raised by Arab elements who sought to attain something like a Palestinian Balfour Declaration in return for their agreement to join the talks. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Group Demands Palestinian Indictments

TA1808112391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpt] The reports about the meetings between the Palestinian delegation, headed by Faysal al-Husayni, with PLO officials in London set off the right wing in the cabinet today. Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi called for pressing charges against the participants in the meeting as would be done in any other democracy. A similar call was also made Minister Yuval Ne'eman of Tehiya.

[Begin Ne'eman recording] I assume that the legal authorities in Israel are maintaining the law. If that delegation met with PLO representatives then I would hope that the Israeli Police would put them on trial. [end recording]

The calls by the right wing did not, however, move the mainstream in the cabinet. Minister Ehud Olmert said: It is less important with whom the Palestinians are talking; what is important is that the Palestinian delegation to be set up will be acceptable to us. The prime minister stressed that all the understandings with the United States are firm. That is also what Foreign Minister David Levi said after the meeting. [passage omitted]

Shamir Awaits 'More Serious' Egyptian Invitation

TA2008083091 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Aug 91 p 14

[Report by Michal Yudelman]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir declined to comment yesterday on the invitation to visit Egyptian President Husni Mubarak extended verbally by Deputy Prime Minister Yusuf Wali on Sunday to the Likud Young Guard delegation now visiting Egypt. It was learned the premier did not take the invitation to visit "any time he likes" too seriously.

"This is not the way official invitations are made. It doesn't sound serious," a source close to the prime minister told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday,

noting that Shamir is waiting for a "more serious, more specific, and clearer invitation."

Referring to Shamir's reaction when he was informed of the invitation by the Likud delegation leaders, other sources from the premier's office said "nobody fell off his chair to hear of this so-called invitation." [passage omitted]

Official Ministerial Visits With Egypt Scheduled

TA1808102991 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Aug 91 p 4

[Report by Smadar Peri]

[Excerpt] Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan has been invited to pay an official visit to Egypt and will leave for Cairo in October as the guest of Dr. Yusuf Wali, the deputy prime minister and agriculture minister, who is also the secretary general of the ruling Egyptian party.

It will be Eytan's second visit to Egypt. The first time was when Eytan was Army chief of staff and accompanied Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman.

Health Minister Ehud Olmert has also been invited to visit Egypt, but a date has not yet been fixed. It will be Olmert's first visit to Egypt.

Two Egyptian ministers, the foreign and tourism ministers, are due to visit Israel. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa accepted an invitation from Foreign Minister David Levi two weeks ago during his visit to Egypt. Musa visited Israel as a member of the Egyptian delegation during the negotiations on the peace accord. Tourism Minister Fu'ad Sultan will come in October on his first official visit to Israel. Sultan, who is considered a friend of Israel, has visited Elat. He is currently trying to development joint tourism projects with Israel and to encourage Israeli tourism to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Israeli Firm To Develop Fire-Control Radar

TA1908140791 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Aug 91 p A8

[Report by Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] The defense establishment has decided to ask Elta to develop a fire-control radar for the Arrow missile. The decision was made after the various options, including whether to develop the radar or procure it elsewhere, were studied for a long time. Elta believes that the development stage will last for two years.

The decision to give the contract to Elta was reached despite some concern of professional army officers who claim that the firm has no experience in developing fire-control radars. They said there is a big risk in assigning development of the radar to Elta, since the operational demands are far-reaching. Elta and the Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI], the mother company, reject these charges and say that Elta has a rich experience in developing radars. Elta experts say the problem is the quality and sophistication of the radar software.

Experts at IAI, which is the main contractor for the Arrow, believe that the cost of developing the radar will be from $120 million to $200 million. The cost of each device to be installed on an Arrow battery will be some $25 million to $30 million. It is still not clear where the funds for the development will come from, since that component is not included in the memorandum of understanding Israel signed with the United States on the Arrow project. Under the memorandum of understanding the U.S. Administration is funding 72 percent of the cost of the Arrow's second stage of development, but only the missile itself and not the other components of the entire system. The defense establishment plan, therefore, is that the amount needed to develop the radar will be allocated out of the supplementary defense budget the Army is demanding for the coming five years.

The original idea was to fund the radar's development from money the Germans undertook to transfer to Israel for that purpose. German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher promised Israel some $600 million during the Gulf war to fund various components of a defense system against ballistic missiles. After the war, however, it appeared that the discussions in Germany might go on for a long time, and if a decision is reached it will come too late for the development of the radar.

To meet the planned timetable for the entire Arrow project and to obtain an operational system, development of the fire-control radar must begin soon. In the meantime, discussions between Israel's defense establishment and Germany over the Israeli request to fund components of the defense system continue.

The decision to give Elta the fire-control radar project has resulted in another decision: that the radar be separated from the radar that provides early warning of the launch of ballistic missiles while they are still far from Israeli territory. The early warning radar will serve the same role as the satellites that provided the civilian population a five-minute warning during the Gulf war. The computers in those radars will be able to analyze the trajectory of the missile in a short time and calculate the approximate point where it will strike, so that the alarm systems in the region can be activated in time.

It has still not been decided where these early warning radars will be procured. Raytheon, the manufacturer of the Patriots, is offering an early warning radar it has developed.

New Civil Defense Building Policy Approved

TA1908150491 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Aug 91 p A2

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Text] The defense minister and the chief of General Staff approved a civil defense policy several days ago.

The policy will be based on **protected apartmental rooms** and **protected apartmental spaces** which will replace the policy of the **sealed room** employed during the Gulf war.

The **protected room** will be one of the rooms of the apartment with no external walls. It will be made of reinforced concrete, will be locked with an armored steel door, and will have shock-proof windows. Regulations and instructions for building contractors will be issued soon. The regulations will obligate them to construct rooms in every new apartment house built in Israel. The defense establishment has not yet decided on a solution for existing apartments. Another solution introduced for new apartments will be the **protected space** which will be built in the staircase and will be made of reinforced concrete as well.

Violence in Territories on 18 Aug Reported

TA1908144491 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Aug 91 p 11

[Report by David Regev, Roni Shaqed, Moshe Tuv-El, and Yotam Navin]

[Excerpts] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers yesterday shot and killed 30-year-old Mahmud 'Umar Zakharna from Qabatiyah during a clash with masked men who violated the week-long curfew on the town. An IDF unit opened fire on the masked man, and Zakharna, who according to Arab sources had been sitting on his balcony, was struck in the neck. He was taken to the hospital in Janin, where he died of his wounds.

Muhammad Na'if Abu-'Ara, 22, from the village of 'Aqqabah, was killed last night in a clash with IDF soldiers.

Two inhabitants of the Khan Yunus refugee camp in the southern part of the Gaza Strip, who were suspected of collaborating with Israel, were murdered last night by masked men. The two victims are 40-year-old Da'ud Abu-Sa'aliq and 26-year-old Jihad Hasan Hasanayn.

Three consecutive life sentences were handed down yesterday for a member of the "Rafiq al-Salami" gang in Rafah who was convicted of brutally murdering two local Arabs whom he suspected of collaborating with the authorities.

A firebomb was thrown at an IDF patrol in downtown Janin, but no damage was caused.

A masked man in Rafah who tried to attack a soldier from close range was shot and seriously wounded. [passage omitted]

Six youngsters from the village of Paqqu'a on the Gilbo'a mountain range suspected of having perpetrated a series of nationalist-related attacks were arrested by policemen of the Valleys District's Minorities Squad. The suspects confessed to the crimes attributed to them and were remanded in custody for 10 days.

Yesterday afternoon masked men attacked an Israeli car driving through the neighborhood of Ra's al-'Amud in East Jerusalem. A female passenger was struck in the neck and required medical treatment.

Settler Sentenced to 4 Months Community Service

TA2008084391 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Aug 91 p 14

[ITIM Report]

[Text] The chairman of the Mate Binyamin Regional Council was sentenced to four months' community service by Jerusalem District Court yesterday for causing the death of an Arab youth.

Samaria settlement leader Pinhas Wallerstein accepted an offer to plead guilty to an amended charge of negligence in the January 1988 shooting death of the resident of Baytin, a village near Ramallah. In return, Wallerstein is to do four months' community service, plus 12 months' suspended, and pay NIS [new Israeli shekels] 8,000.

He was originally charged with killing the youth, Rabbah Ghannam, 16, and injuring a second under aggravated circumstances.

According to the revised indictment, Wallerstein had stopped his car at a road block of stones and a burning tire on the Ramallah- Ofra road near Baytin. He got out of the car and fired several times into the air to disperse youths who were stoning his car.

The youths turned back towards the village, but as Wallerstein re-entered his car, they approached him again. Feeling threatened, he fired at the ground between him and the youths, killing one and injuring another in the thigh.

Wallerstein said he did not consider his acceptance of the plea bargain an admission of guilt and that he was going along with it because he wanted to end the long legal battle, which had disrupted his work as regional council chairman.

SLA Soldier Wounded in Explosion 17 Aug

TA1708194191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] A South Lebanese Army soldier was wounded in the security zone in southern Lebanon today in a bomb explosion. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that two more bombs were found and safely dismantled near the site of the explosion in the eastern sector. The wounded soldier sustained medium wounds and was hospitalized at the Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] military vehicle hit a mine in the same sector this evening. Nobody was hurt.

USSR Developments, PLO Representation Viewed

JN1908153791 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Amman, 19 Aug (WAKH)—Jordanian Information Minister Dr. Khalid al-Karaki has asserted that a change in a country as large as the Soviet Union must influence the situation in the entire world, and that the dimensions of that change will affect the Soviet Union and the world.

In a press conference held in Amman today, al-Karaki said: The changes announced today need further examination and follow up, and we cannot jump to any conclusions and make assumptions before all dimensions of the events currently unfolding are clear.

Regarding Palestinian representation in the proposed peace conference, al-Karaki stressed that Jordan insists that the PLO should be represented at the conference in the dimension related to the Palestinian question. He explained that Jordan has not decided yet whether or not to go alone to the conference, stressing that Palestinian representation is a Palestinian decision and Palestinians can choose to go to the conference as an independent delegation or as part of a joint delegation.

He reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to international legitimacy and UN Resolutions 242 and 338, as far as the question of Palestine is concerned; namely, Israel's withdrawal from all territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination in their territory.

He pointed out that Jordan had asked for assurances and guarantees for the peace process which concern certain principles of the Jordanian political assessment of the current moves. He said these assurances concern the concept of land for peace, the invalid annexation of Jerusalem, and Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab territories.

Information Minister Reacts to Soviet 'Affair'

JN2008094891 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0914 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Amman, 20 Aug (PETRA)—Information Minister Dr. Khalid al-Karaki has said that the Jordanian Government is following with interest the developments in the Soviet Union. Although it believes this to be an internal Soviet affair, the Jordanian Government realizes its effects both inside the Soviet Union on the political, economic, and social levels, and internationally, especially its effect on the world balance of power, which recently faced a major problem and which might have led to one-sided hegemony.

The information minister expressed Jordan's hope that the Soviet Union would achieve the stability that would enable it to perform its role as a state with an important role in the international balance of power.

Soviet Leadership Applauded for 'Brave Act'

JN2008092791 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Aug 91 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "The Heads That Roll"]

[Text] President Saddam Husayn was not making wild guesses, but was reading an open book when he affirmed that many heads would roll and that many leaderships would pay the price of betraying their people, values, and principles, as well as the price of their aggression against the Iraqi people and for continuing to slaughter them due to their vileness, racism and hatred.

Before Gorbachev was unregrettably toppled yesterday, Thatcher fell. And since this woman played a big role in planning the aggression against the Iraqi people and in implementing it in a way that depicted Western hatred for all that is Arab and Islamic, the role Gorbachev played should make every Soviet citizen feel shame because his leadership's submission to Washington and obeying its orders was frivolous and cheap. After Gorbachev and Thatcher, many heads are predicted to fall in one way or another, not because they betrayed the Iraqi people, humanity, values, and principles, but because they betrayed their own people. The 30-nation alliance led by the United States violates all moral values and undermines principles. All those who joined it and fought under the U.S. helmet feel some disappointment since they gained nothing after the cheap military victory because Washington took everything.

Therefore, we believe that Gorbachev's overthrow yesterday was a brave act by those Soviets who refused to go on accepting the U.S. and European humiliation of their country. They rebelled against the U.S. and European scheme which sought to transform the Soviet Union into an arena swarming with millions of hungry people, criminals, and outlaws. In no time, this superpower would have collapsed completely and split into mini-states with no standing or elements for existence. All that would have remained for them would be to stand humiliated before the American, British, French, or other masters of the Romans of this age, with their long sharp teeth and black claws.

Regarding everything the Western leaders claim, particularly Bush, Major, and Mitterrand, about the unconstitutionality of what happened, after extending our condolances to them, we suggest they resort to the United Nations and issue 40 resolutions against the Soviet Union as they did with Iraq. They could also try imposing a siege on it and then maybe carry out aggression and do everything they thought would push the Iraqis into the U.S. tunnel. Let the Western leaders try this. These are the accepted laws of the new world order and these Western leaders cannot be content with crying over Gorbachev because he did not last long enough for them to finish off the humiliating deal for the Soviet Union and all its citizens in return for Coca Cola shops, hamburger stands and jeans shops.

We do not feel sorry for the ousted president who sold his country and people, but we certainly gloat over those who believed everything to be perfect and that all heads would remain stuck in the sand for as long as the Western leaders decide.

Greetings and congratulations to the Soviet leaders now guiding their country out of the den of weakness, slavery, and subservience to the heights of force, pride, and independence, which gives us all the strength we need to go on and resist.

AL-DUSTUR: No 'Regret' for Gorbachev

JN2008101591 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Aug 91 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "The Political Soviet Earthquake"]

[Text] What happened in the Soviet Union at dawn yesterday is very important not only for the Soviet peoples, but for all world nations and peoples in view of the weight of the Soviet state and the important position it occupies on the map of international relations.

Therefore, we view the events that are taking place in the Soviet Union as more important than if similar events were taking place in some other state, especially since the new Soviet leaders intend to regain control of the situation that ousted President Mikhail Gorbachev abandoned for the sake of the United States.

Since U.S. single-handed dealing with the world's destiny has caused very serious damage to our various pan-Arab causes, we welcome the developments that have taken place at the pinnacle of authority in Moscow with no prevalent feelings of regret for the fall of Gorbachev's leadership—this leadership that opened the door wide before Jewish immigration and took a series of humiliating stands in the Security Council leading it to approve waging the unjust Atlantic aggression on fraternal Iraq.

Therefore, we hope these developments, which are taking place against the backdrop of a long list of internal difficulties and failures, are the beginning of a new Soviet rise which will lead to restoring the balance in relations between East and West and to stopping the U.S. single-handed meddling in the destinies of people, the United Nations, and the international Security Council. The Arabs will then be able to regain the stand of a friendly country, which they greatly missed during the difficult crisis that befell them, and which has still not passed.

Although we have no doubt that what happened in the Soviet Union will be beneficial to the Arab people and their just causes, we have no doubt either that Gorbachev's fall will soon improve the state of Arab affairs, or will at least stop this continuing collapse of the Arab position in the international arena.

With regard to all this, we have no regrets over the end of a Soviet era that symbolizied subservience, submission, backwardness, and regression regarding international relations. At the same time, we declare our sincere hope that the friendly Soviet Union will overcome its internal problems so that it can resume its historic and known role as a country friendly to our people and the peoples of the Third World, and as a superpower that defends its principles and commitments and does not forsake its friends, as was the case during the days of the ousted Soviet president.

Kuwaiti 'Crimes' Possibly Give Rise to Terrorism

JN1508093291 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Aug 91 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "This Human Tragedy Must Be Stopped"]

[Text] It seems it is the fate of this region not have stability, security, or peace. Pillars of stability, security, and peace will remain under threat as long as there are regimes that volunteer to serve the foreigner, conspire against the region's peoples, torture the Arab individual, and entertain wild desires to take revenge on the Arab countries that support their nation and its noble principles and sacrifice everything dear to serve its crucial issues.

As long as Kuwait insists on continuing its blatant attacks and mad measures against the Palestinian and Jordanian individual, and on violating all the Arab, heavenly, and humanitarian principles and values, and all international norms and charters and the universal declaration on human rights, there will be signs of tempestuous regional conflict that may blow up the pillars of the desired peace in this region. New reasons and motives may also emerge to revive the policy of violence and terrorism which may develop into various forms of fighting among brothers.

The unfair Kuwaiti campaign to expel thousands of Palestinians and Jordanians, who have not committed any crime, is a serious indication of the severance of the ties of Arab and Islamic brotherhood. It is also a disgraceful act that can only be committed by rancorous people blinded by the desire for vengeance and the deep-rooted hatred, which makes them lose all their senses.

These abhorrent crimes committed by the Kuwaiti Government against hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and Jordanians are taking place in the full view of the United Nations and the UN Security Council permanent members, particularly the United States, which has imposed itself as the custodian of the entire world, claiming that it is concerned about protecting human rights and international legitimacy.

We know that the tragedy of these Palestinians and Jordanians—as described by His Majesty King Husayn—is a human tragedy that should shake the world's mind and conscience, and ushers in an unknown

future for the people in the region. We also know that the 30-state aggression led by the U.S. Administration was staged under the cover of protecting international legitimacy and human rights and confronting violence as a means to resolve regional disputes.

The world community—with its states, peoples, and social and humanitarian organizations—is asked to face the Kuwaiti Government's crimes and violations of the Palestinian and Jordanian human rights. The world is also asked to restrain the Kuwaiti Government and force it to stop expelling these Palestinian and Jordanian human waves and denying their legal, material, and human rights. Furthermore, the world community is asked to abandon its silence and exert pressure on the Kuwaiti Government to put an end to this human tragedy, which is a disgrace to all mankind.

The Kuwaiti Government must realize that going too far in committing crimes against Jordanians and Palestinians cannot bring glory, victory, stability, or a tranquil life to Kuwait.

Finance Minister Lobbying To Reschedule Debts

JN1508074691 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Aug 91 p 1

[Text] Amman—Finance Minister Basil Jardanah will soon leave for Washington, Paris, and London at the head of a Jordanian financial delegation to hold talks with the IMF, the World Bank, Paris Club, and London Club on rescheduling certain Jordanian debts.

The Jordanian Government has authorized the finance minister to sign an agreement to reschedule the Belgian Government's exports loan, as well as the Swedish loans to Jordan. The Government had approved the financial protocol with the Swedish Government and the agreement with the Swedish Export Promotion Authority to reschedule Swedish loans.

During the visit, the delegation will also exchange memorandums on rescheduling British exports loans, estimated at 52 million pounds sterling.

Planning Minister Leaves for World Bank Talks

JN1508145191 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Planning Minister Dr. Ziyad Fariz left today for Washington to meet with World Bank officials and discuss measures to speed up withdrawals from the loans that had been agreed upon earlier.

The visit also aims at exploring the possibility of financing future projects in the Kingdom.

Foreign Currency Rules Eased To Promote Exports

JN1808152491 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] In pursuance of the Central Bank of Jordan's [CBJ] policy of removing foreign currency restrictions in the Kingdom; and to encourage national exports as a source of foreign currency reserves; and out of willingness to remove all obstacles to the flow of Jordanian exports; and to reduce the time, effort, and cost associated with exporting, the CBJ has issued a decision exempting all exporters of goods of Jordanian origin, regardless of their value, from making a commitment or warranty to the CBJ. The previous practice was for the exporter to promise to return the value of exported goods in foreign currency to the CBJ—a condition set on 2 July 1988.

This step reflects the CBJ's inclination toward gradual abolishment of foreign currency restrictions. The purpose is to stimulate local economic activity, especially in the fields of industry and exports, in the light of the positive changes witnessed by the foreign exchange market over the past two years—changes that reflected confidence in the open monetary policy pursued by the CBJ.

Part of Swiss Government Loan Converted to Grant

JN1808165391 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Amman, 18 Aug (PETRA)—Dr. Safwan Tuqan, director general of the Planning Ministry, has said that the Swiss Government has decided to turn the governmental portion of its loan to Jordan—20 million Swiss francs—into a grant aimed at easing Jordan's foreign debt burden.

He explained that the Council of Ministers has approved the amendment to the 60-million franc mixed-loan agreement signed with the Swiss Government last June. The amendment converts the governmental part of the loan into a grant. The Council of Ministers also agreed to authorize the planning minister to sign the amended agreement for the Jordanian Government.

Buwayz Contacts Soviet Envoy To Voice 'Concern'

NC2008062591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has announced that Lebanon is following with concern the current developments in the Soviet Union. Buwayz told reporters that he has contacted the Soviet ambassador to Lebanon to express his concern over these developments.

Soviet Envoy 'Surprised' by Developments at Home

NC2008061491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Gennadiy Ilichev, the Soviet ambassador to Lebanon, made the following statement: The only thing I can say is that we were surprised by the news from Moscow. I cannot add anything to the official statements released from Moscow.

In response to a question on Gorbachev's fate, Ambassador Ilichev said: He was supposed to have returned to Moscow to sign the new Union Treaty.

Speaking after a meeting with Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin, Ilichev said: I want to say something for the record: Perestroika in the Soviet Union is deep-rooted and has become an irrevocable political, economic, and social practice. Perestroika will move forward and overcome all hardships.

Foreign Minister Comments on Soviet Developments

NC1908161491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] In Beirut, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said: We are following with concern the developments in the Soviet Union. The Foreign Ministry has not received any communication from the Lebanese ambassador in Moscow, Salim Tadmuri. The ministry repeatedly tried to contact him, but to no avail.

Soviet Coup, End of 'Jewish' Reform Applauded

NC2008084491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0555 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] It may be premature to judge great satan America's exclusive world leadership; the Zionist Jewish hegemony over America; and perestroika and glasnost, which allow millions of Soviet, Ethiopian, and European Jews to immigrate to occupied Palestine to usurp more Muslim lands and sanctities and to support the racist Zionist dream of establishing a great Jewish emperor on the ruins of our nation. [passage omitted]

World media report that an hour after midnight in the United States marked the fall of a great conspiracy which almost changed the world. That is when history recorded the fall of Gorbachev, the Jews' puppet and their ticket to the Kremlin, the second center of international decisionmaking after the Black House, which is known as the White House.

The situation in the Soviet Union is still unclear. However, light comes with the day. In addition to Gorbachev's ouster and the declaration of a six-month state of emergency, a ruling committee composed of the ministers of defense and interior and the KGB chief issued a statement. The statement indicates that a fundamental change has taken place in the Soviet Union. Bush is surprised and Shamir refuses to comment while observing developments closely. Only AFP has said very simply that the conservatives have seized power.

We will not comment on these significant developments hastily like the French president did. We do not expect Yazov and his team to stand firmly on the side of Arab and Muslim rights. We simply say that we have always depended on the Almighty who never fails to restore balance to the world, foster the oppressed, and defeat the arrogant tyrants.

Yes, the Jewish perestroyka has fallen. The chief of the Soviet state emergency committee has said that perestroyika has reached a dead end. We depend on God first and foremost and pray to him. Only he understands the means and causes.

We can be pleased with the hope of stopping the new Jewish invasion, which they call immigration. We can only hope that America will once again face a rival who can curb its evil interest in killing and humiliating us and erasing our cultural character through forcing us to submit to the wishes of Zionists.

Although we are religiously and ethically opposed to communist ideology, and although we believe that both East and West are misled and forsaken by God, it is better for us that they disagree. It is better than their agreeing to submit to the deception of world Zionism—the enemy of our people and mankind and the cancer of the world.

Many recalculations will have to be made this morning now that Gorbachev, Yeltsin, and all the other Jews, dissidents, conspirators, and deceived are gone. [passage omitted]

The Red Army has dealt its blow and put an end to the Soviet Union's subordination to America. Prospects are numerous because developments have just started. The questions are: How capable are the Americans of causing a civil war in Russia? What will be the fate of the provinces, petty states, and collapsed alliances? What will be the characteristics of the new coup regime? What will be the share of Arabs, Muslims, and oppressed of the interest of the new rulers; and, what stand will these rulers take on Israel? The answers to all these questions will be known in the next few days. The pious will certainly be rewarded.

Soviet Coup 'Great Setback' for United States

NC2008094891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that the coup in the Soviet Union is a great setback for the United States, which is trying to unilaterally control the world.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-SHARQ, Fadlallah said that events in the Soviet Union were expected because President Gorbachev was preoccupied with economic issues and internal reforms. This enabled the United States to downgrade the status of the Soviet Union, which quickly turned into a satellite of the United States.

Hostage Talks Unaffected by Moscow Coup

LD2008102391 Hamburg DPA in German 0931 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Beirut (DPA) [no date as received]—The negotiations concerning the Western hostages in Lebanon are to be continued despite the power change in the Soviet Union. Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, spiritual leader of the Hizballah (Party of God), stressed today. "The decision to release them has been made and will be pursued regardless of external events," Fadlallah told DPA.

The shaykh, who maintains no direct relations with the kidnappers but who is said to wield great influence over them, said that Iran's policy "does not depend on the nature of regime of its great neighbor". The Iranians have also had close relations with the Soviet Union, "but I do not believe that the nature of leadership in the USSR will influence the country's new rapprochement to the Western world," the shaykh added.

In Fadlallah's view only the responsibility for Israeli pilot Ron Arad, who was taken prisoner by Muslim fundamentalists after he crash landed in southern Lebanon, can hinder the release of the hostages. "It is difficult for us to find him—he cannot be found anywhere," Fadlallah said. Security forces and diplomatic circles in Beirut suspect that by now the pilot may possibly be among the Palestinian Liberation Army or in Syria. [passage omitted]

PLO Official Cited on Coordination With Jordan

JN1808202691 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Randah Habib report from Amman; from the "Panorama" program]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Member Sulayman al-Najjab met in Amman today with Jordanian Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri and Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur. The two sides discussed the latest political moves and 'Arafat's upcoming visit to Jordan.

In a statement to our radio, al-Najjab said that Jordan and the PLO are in agreement on the need to reach a peaceful settlement based on international legitimacy, and that coordination between the two now is based on obtaining U.S. guarantees before entering the peace conference.

Al-Najjab stressed the importance of holding an Arab meeting to reach a united position to which all would be committed so as to adhere to Arab principles and international legitimacy. He said this meeting is important to crystallize an Arab commitment that no agreement with Israel should be signed before the Palestinian people's legitimate rights are met.

The Palestinian official said that without Arab support, no serious guarantees could be obtained from the United States.

Israeli 'Squadron' Conducts 'Sorties' Over Sidon

NC1908195291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Our correspondent in the south has reported that a squadron of Israeli aircraft has been conducting reconnaissance sorties over the Sidon and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas.

France Releases $45 Million in Aid

NC2008085291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] French Ambassador Daniel Husson has announced that France has released a $45-million aid package to Lebanon. The aid had been frozen due to events in Lebanon. France will also offer Lebanon 150 educational scholarships. Amb. Husson also said that the aid will be used to repair the electricity and telephone networks and to renovate schools.

King Husayn, al-Asad Begin Talks in Latakia

JN1908115791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Latakia—President Hafiz al-Asad and His Majesty King Husayn began talks at 1330 today. For Syria the talks are attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Syrian Ambassador in Amman Majid Abu-Salih. For Jordan the talks are attended by Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri, Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur, Minister of Youth Dr. Salih Rushaydat, and Jordanian Ambassador to Syria Nayif al-Hadid.

His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal arrived in Latakia at 1230 and was received at Latakia airport by President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Regional Talks Discussed

AU1908135391 Paris AFP in English 1312 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Damascus, Aug 19 (AFP)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on Monday received King Husayn of Jordan for talks on U.S.-Soviet plans to convene a Middle East peace conference in October, officials said.

The meeting was held at the presidential summer home in the northwestern coastal city of Lattaqieh. The talks were also to center on Palestinian representation at a peace conference in light of Israel's insistence that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), East Jerusalem residents and Palestinians from the diaspora be excluded.

The PLO is by contrast insisting that it alone be authorised to choose the Palestinian representatives, including those from Arab East Jerusalem.

The Jordanian monarch recently argued that Arab states must coordinate their positions ahead of the proposed conference, which is currently being blocked by the dispute over Palestinian representation.

Amman Radio Reports on Talks

JN1908152191 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Official talks between His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad began in Latakia today, right after his majesty's arrival in Latakia. The talks dealt with the developments in the efforts to achieve a political settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question. [passage omitted]

Coordination Discussed

JN1908172591 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Excerpt] In Latakia, the Jordanian delegation under His Majesty King Husyan and the Syrian team under His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad resumed talks this evening. They discussed issues related to peace efforts and proposed solutions, and exchanged information, views, and consultations on them. The two sides also agreed on the need for continued coordination between the two sisterly countries. In their talks, the two leaders discussed the promotion of bilateral relations and followed up on issues from the agenda of the Higher Joint Jordanian-Syrian Committee. [passage omitted]

Closed Session Continues

JN1908203591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Latakia—President Hafiz al-Asad and His Majesty King Husayn resumed their talks in closed session at 2030 tonight at the Presidential Palace in Latakia. They continued the discussion of the topics covered in their earlier meeting. [passage omitted]

Paper Urges 'Unified' Stand

JN2008103291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 20 Aug 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Unified Arab Stand," the newspaper TISHRIN says: It is natural for the Arabs to coordinate over the efforts and contacts currently under way to convene a peace conference in the region, especially since Israel is doing all it can to torpedo these efforts and is placing obstacles and difficulties in the way of implementing the Security Council resolutions on the Middle East conflict, whether these resolutions concern Palestinian rights or withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. The meetings between leader al-Asad and King Husayn are within the context of attempts to crystallize a unified Arab stand that would confront Zionist intransigence and put the world community before its responsibilities. The peace conference that is due to be held is, in the final analysis, an international conference. Evidence of this is that the two superpowers are sponsoring it. Also, the United Nations as well as the EC will participate in this conference. The prime objective of the conference is to implement international resolutions and defuse a dangerous hotbed of tension and wars in the region created by the continued Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people in contravention of the UN principles and charters.

TISHRIN adds: Observers agree that meeting the requirements of peace in the region dictates that the Arab ranks be closed and fortified in the face of the ceaseless enemy evasiveness and maneuvers.

Concluding its commentary, the paper says: If a clear and unified Arab stance is achieved, the results will be better. Each participating Arab delegation should speak on behalf of all parties and express the will of all Arabs with regard to the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace based on the restoration of the Palestinian people's inalienable rights and the retrieval of all occupied territories, including Jerusalem and the Golan. The unity of the Arab stand is of vital importance. It could, by itself, enable the Arabs to apply pressure on the world community to make it shoulder its responsibility in full with regard to the confrontation of the Zionist aggression which has continued for more than 40 years.

Khaddam Explains Syrian, Arab Desire for Peace

JN1708170391 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Damascus, 17 Aug (SANA)—At 1130 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received the delegation representing the National Council for American-Arab Relations headed, by Dr. John Duke Antony [name as received].

The meeting was attended by Aleppo University President Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Huriyyah.

The vice president explained to the delegation the developments of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the region, and the march toward peace. He stressed the Arab and Syrian desire to establish a just and comprehensive peace, based on international legitimacy, which would lead to a full withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and guarantees of the Palestinian people's national rights. He also stressed the need for all parties concerned to participate in the peace conference, and for the Palestinian side to have the right to choose its own representatives, free of any pressure.

He also explained to them the Israeli expansionist policies and Israel's maneuvers to hamper the peace process.

TISHRIN Cited on No 'Bargaining' on Golan

JN1808093991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 18 Aug 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Golan Is an Indivisible Part of Syria," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Israeli officials assert daily that the annexation of the occupied Golan is irrevocable. To achieve this purpose, they ask Zionist settlers in the Syrian Golan Heights to stage demonstrations and submit petitions to Yitzhaq Shamir, asking him to confirm that the annexation is nonrescindable. As a matter of fact, Shamir does not need any prodding in this regard. He has repeatedly declared that the Golan is an indivisible part of the Zionist entity, and that it is nonnegotiable. As for Ari'el Sharon, he is working to double the number of settlements in the occupied Syrian heights. He is distributing land and housing to East European and Soviet Jewish immigrants free of charge. With regard to Israeli military officers, they advance security and strategic reasons for their need to keep the Golan.

TISRHIN adds: From time immemorial, the Golan has been part of Syrian territory. Syria is committed to the retrieval of all of the Golan. With regard to the people of the Golan, they have shown over the years their allegiance to their motherland, Syria, their rejection of Israeli identity, and their readiness to make sacrifices to defend the Arab identity of their land. Besides, all states of the world, including the United States, have acknowledged that the Golan is Syrian territory, that it is part of the occupied territories, and that Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 apply.

The paper goes on to say: Now that it has responded favorably to the U.S. proposals and also to the international efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region as well, Syria is eyeing the restoration of the Golan, just as it views as a major objective the restoration of all occupied territories as well as the retrieval of the Palestinian people's rights. When Syria responds favorably to peace efforts, it holds the world community responsible for ending the Israeli aggression on the occupied Arab territories, including the Golan. Likewise, it expects the world community to act to implement its resolutions on the Arab-Zionist conflict and the occupied territories, demonstrating the same spirit it showed when it implemented the resolutions on the Gulf crisis.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says: The Golan is Syrian territory and it will remain so. There will be neither forfeiture of rights to the Golan, nor bargaining on its future and identity. Furthermore, there will be no peace in the region as long as the Golan and other Arab territories remain under the yoke of the occupation and at the disposal of Zionist settlers to take of them what they want and plan for.

Afghanistan

Gorbachev's Ouster Threatens Afghan Settlement

BK1908113991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1027 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 19 (AFP)—Peace efforts will suffer a setback in Afghanistan with the ouster of Mikhail Gorbachev, Afghan sources said Monday.

Pakistani sources also believe the newly created trust between Islamabad and Moscow might suffer.

A spokesman of the Pakistan-based moderate Afghan resistance faction, the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA), feared the KGB might once again become active in Afghanistan.

The KGB had traditionally played an "important role" in Afghan affairs, NIFA spokesman Azim Nasir Zia said and Kabul's Communist ruler Najibullah, himself a former chief of the Afghan secret police, Khad, might benefit from this change.

"If the cycle is reversed, it would mean more bloodshed and less chances for peace" in Afghanistan, he added.

An Afghan resistance leader, Ahmed Zia, brother of Ahmed Shah Mas'ud, another resistance leader, said the Afghans seemed heading for a military solution and "peace efforts might be dumped" for some time.

Another leader said Gorbachev's overthrow could herald a hardening in U.S. policy towards Moscow and result in more western backing for the mojahedin.

Only last week a high level Soviet delegation visited Pakistan for talks on ending the 13-year old Afghan conflict. It also held first direct negotiations in three years with resistance leaders.

The Soviet officials had reportedly indicated a willingness to replace Najibullah, a major obstacle to peace for the mojahedin.

Further on Effect on Peace

BK2008122791 Hong Kong AFP in English 1204 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Aug 20 (AFP)—The overthrow of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev could delay the U.N.-initiated peace process in Afghanistan and encourage hardliners in rival camps, diplomats and Afghan leaders said Tuesday.

Western diplomats agreed that the hardliners' takeover in Moscow would give some "satisfaction" to Kabul ruler Najibollah, a potential casualty of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's peace blueprint for Afghanistan calling for an interim government to be set up.

It could also cast a cloud over a planned Iranian-called conference August 28, bringing Sunni and Shiite guerrilla groups operating from Pakistan and Afghanistan to the negotiating table.

The resistance was scheduled to advance its alternatives for a comprehensive settlement in Afghanistan. The conference was to be followed in September by talks in Moscow between Pakistan and Soviet officials. But Western diplomats here believe the Soviet coup has put a damper on both the Tehran talks and the Moscow meeting, and will generally slow the momentum of the U.N. initiative.

A delay would suit Najibollah, one diplomat said, adding that it was unlikely the new Soviet leadership would put pressure on him.

At the same time, however, the new leadership was likely to be "too tied up in its own problems" to opt for any increased involvement in Afghanistan, he said.

"Najibollah's optimism might prove misplaced," the diplomat added.

Resistance hardliners also drew some satisfaction from events in Moscow. They believed that any increased support from the Soviet Union for its Kabul allies would lead to renewed American backing for the guerrillas.

The events in Moscow would also encourage the mojahedin's advocates of a military solution, they said.

U.N. sources stressed that ousted President Gorbachev had never been in sole control of Afghan policy. "The hardliners were always there" in the past, said a U.N. official.

"We are still confident that the momentum towards a political solution will be maintained," he added.

Pakistan wants the three million Afghan refugees still on its territory to go home, whoever is in power in Moscow. Premier Nawaz Sharif said last week that he thought a settlement was in sight.

(Meanwhile in Kabul, where the beginnings of glasnost enabled residents to hear the news Monday both from TASS and from a Western news agency over Radio Kabul, the mood Tuesday was one of apprehension.

Soviet Ambassador Boris Pastukhov was in Moscow, and there was no official reaction from President Najibollah, whose Soviet-backed regime is heavily dependent on Moscow for supplies of food, fuel and arms.

In the bazaars and markets, the mood appeared to be one of pessimism, with businessmen saying that the events in Moscow could only delay the United Nations-backed efforts to end the 13-year-old Afghan war, and concern expressed that Washington and Moscow might again be at loggerheads.

Bureaucrats and businessmen alike were also worried over whether the turbulence in the Soviet Union might

affect the flow of supplies from across the northern border to Kabul, and force the government to appeal to India, the South Asian country with the closest ties to the Najibollah regime.

Intellectuals expressed apprehension that hardline Afghan party leader and former President Babrak Karmal, who returned from Moscow two months ago for the first time since the Gorbachev era began, might receive backing from Soviet hardliners.

Karmal was and still is seen here as a "Brezhnev man." Most foreign diplomats here, however, tend to discount Moscow backing for Karmal, saying that in the two months since his return, Najibollah appeared to have party support.

"Not many people think Najibollah will go back on his efforts to negotiate an end to the war in line with the United Nations plan. He is committed," said one civil servant.

A carpet seller in the Afghan capital's chicken street had the last word on Monday's coup: "Very bad.... Now war will not stop.")

Rebels Warn Against 'Interference'

BK1908160491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1522 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 19 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance provisional government cautiously reacted Monday to the shake-up in the Soviet Union and urged the new government's leaders to stop Soviet "interference" in Afghanistan.

Gorbachev had the courage to admit the failure of Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan, according to a statement from Burhanuddin Rabbani, reconstruction minister in the Pakistan-based rebel Afghan interim government, circulated here by the resistance Midia News Agency.

But despite his "claims for peace and human rights, he did not end the Russian interference in Afghanistan," the statement said. "We request the new leaders to put an end to the Soviet interference."

Rabbani's statement, issued from Saudi Arabia where is on a visit, said Gorbachev's ouster is an internal affair of the Soviet Union.

"We neither condemn nor welcome it," it said.

Rabbani, who also heads the Jamiat Islami faction, appealed to the new Soviet leadership to "open a new chapter in the relations of the two countries by removing the puppet regime in Kabul."

The rebels have continued their jihad or holy war since the Soviet troop withdrawal in 1989 to dislodge President Najibullah and establish an Islamic government in Kabul.

They accepted last month a U.N. blueprint as a possible basis for a political settlement provided President Najibullah was ousted.

The United Nations proposed May 21 an intra-Afghan dialogue to set up a transitional administration leading to elections and formation of a government acceptable to the Afghan people.

The Soviet roving ambassador, Nikolay Ivanovich Kozyrev, urged the resistance to hold talks with the Kabul government when he met with rebel leaders here during a visit highlighted by the release of a Soviet prisoner of war by the mojahedin.

Rebel Leader Welcomes Change

BK2008092191 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 20 Aug 91 p 1

[Text] Peshawar—Mawlawi Muhammad Yunis Khalis, chief of faction of Hezb-e Eslami has welcomed changes in Soviet leadership but said that new developments in Soviet Union after removal of Gorbachev would push back the Russians into communist era.

The Afghan resistance leader while commenting on the removal of Mikhail Gorbachev, in an interview, said that it was a good change because both the Soviets and United States has joined hands to create hurdles in setting up of an Islamic government in Afghanistan now both the forces would not be in a position to execute their joint conspiracies against the Afghan Mojahedin, he claimed.

He however, said that with the removal of Gorbachev from power, the Soviet Union reverted back to the old Communist system and one party government and such steps could not be viewed as an healthy step as policies of Mikhail Gorbachev for an open society with his great stress on Perestroyka will greatly suffer bringing the Russian people back to the ages of worst slavery and repressive Communist rule. He opined that move against Gorbachev was planned by the KGB and old activists of Communism.

The Afghan leader went on to say that with the changes in Soviet leadership, now the United States would revise its policies towards Afghan resistance whom it had deserted in a bid to please the deposed Soviet leader, Gorbachev. The world would witness a new phase of events following ouster of Gorbachev from power, he added and said that it was need of the hour that Afghan Mojahedin should forge unity among their ranks and would give due attention towards their common goals which was setting up an Islamic government in Afghanistan instead of the Najib government.

Najibollah Attends National Day Celebrations

Meets Diplomatic Corps

LD1708202291 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] The press office of the presidency reported to BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that esteemed President Najibollah, received and spoke with the members of the foreign diplomatic corps this morning in Kabul.

In explaining in detail the political and military situation of recent months and new developments in connection with a political and peaceful solution of the Afghanistan issue, esteemed Najibollah said:

Seventy-two years ago, our country rose up against colonialism when no country had yet done so and declared its independence. At present, our country, above all, announced its new policies concerning the realization of the policy of national reconcilation and a search for a political and peaceful solution. At present, where the military situation has been complicated as a result of interference by the militarists of Pakistan, we are completely confident that the patriots of Afghanistan in whose veins the blood of our ancestors flow would properly accomplish their national duties for the defense of the independence and territorial integrity of the country. In following the wishes of the people for ending the war, restoring peace, and reconstructing the country, we will continue to follow the policy of national reconciliation in its various dimensions.

In addressing the members of the foreign diplomatic corps, esteemed Najibollah added: We are confident that a sound mind will prevail over the spirit of confrontation and warmongering for the benefit of the interests of the people of Aghanistan. I hope the world's countries—and in particular those countries that work for the restoration of peace and international security—can help our people in search of a political and peaceful solution.

His Excellency Ali Mablok Sharifi, secretary of the People's Bureau of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, then spoke on behalf of the members of diplomatic corps in Kabul and thanked the esteemed president of Afghanistan for his detailed explanation.

Calls for Peace

LD1808192891 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Excerpts] The 72d anniversary of the country's independence day was marked this afternoon at a grand meeting in the Foreign Ministry reception hall. Esteemed President Najibollah participated at the meeting. [passage omitted]

Vice President Abdorrahim Hatef, briefly spoke about the country's independence day and requested esteemed Najibollah to deliver his speech on the occasion of the country's independence anniversary. Esteemed Najibollah then spoke about the heroic struggles of our forefathers in regaining the independence of the country and the importance of this great historical event. He said:

Seventy two years ago the free-born Afghan people tasted the fruit of the sacrifices and struggle for freedom of their children and officially declared the independence of the country, which had been taken away as a result of repeated aggressions and invasions of the British state. Ever since that time, the people of Afghanistan, as members of the common home of the Afghans, celebrate the independence festival, this greatest legacy of their fathers and forefathers. All Afghans wherever they are celebrate the independence festival as their moral and political values. Allow me, on behalf of the Republic of Afghanistan, to congratulate you on the independence day of our beloved country—to all of you, brothers and sisters, refugees, and Afghans residing in Europe, America, Iran, Pakistan wherever you may be.

Esteemed Najibollah added: Now that we celebrate the 72d anniversary of our beloved country, think deeply about the sufferings and sorrows that have been imposed on our people during the past years. In the course of assessment, recall, wisdom, and [word indistinct] of the patriots of Afghanistan, we come to the conclusion that Afghans are able to solve the problems of their common home by referring to their laudable national traditions. The Afghans could and should be able to seek an Afghan solution to the many problems of Afghan society. The only way to facilitate the great possibility of the cessation of war and the establishment of peace in the country is an accord between Afghan political forces concerning a mechanism for the maintenance of peace through a political, peaceful solution in Afghanistan. We will continue the policy of national reconciliation, the greatest aim of which is the establishment of peace, following the resolute will of the Afghan nation for safeguarding independence, territorial integrity, and the maintenance of peace in the country.

Esteemed Najibollah said: At a time when all windows, on the national and international level, are opened for the solution of problems through political and peaceful means, we (?hope) that all Afghan political forces take national stops toward realizing the peace plan of the United Nations, particularly those who declare themselves in the service of independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty of a united Afghanistan. The opponents of the Republic of Afghanistan, who have not forwarded any program except the negation of a number of political forces, have somehow taken a series of ambiguous stands vis-a-vis the five-paragraph statement of the UN Secretary General; and some have negated the acceptance of the principles enshrined in the aforementioned statement. Such stands have no result but wasting suitable opportunities for peace, and the continuation of imposing suffering and pain on the people and further destruction of the country.

Esteemed Najibollah added: The Republic of Afghanistan, whose principal and fundamental motivation is the safeguarding of the independent identity of Afghanistan, believes we will cross over the dary valleys of present probelsm t with the help of Almighty God and the support of the freedom-loving Afghan people. Eventually, God willing, the people of Afghanistan will arrive at our destination, which is the cessation of war and the establishment of peace in the country.

The meeting ended with the playing of national anthem of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Thanks Gorbachev for Greetings

LD1808200591 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Aug 91

["Text" of message by Presidednt Najibollah "in reply to a congratulatory message from His Excellency M.S. Gorbachev, president of the USSR"; date not given]

[Text] Esteemed Excellency,

On behalf of the people of Afghanistan, I express my gratitude to you and through you to the friendly and neighboring people of the USSR in connection with your sincere congratulations and good wishes on the occasion of the national and historic festival of the Afghans, the 72d anniversary of the independence of our country.

The consistent support by the Soviet Union and you personally for the efforts of the Republic of Afghanistan Government toward establishing peace and stability, and the cessation of war and fratricide in the country, are viewed with great appreciation. It can be expressed with confidence that relations and friendly links between the two countries will in the future further strengthen and widen between the governments and peoples of our countries on the basis of mutual interests.

[Signed] Najibollah, president of Afghanistan.

Judicial Cooperation Pact Concluded With USSR

LD1608221491 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] A cooperation agreement for 1991-96 between the Supreme Court of the Republic of Afghanistan and the High Court of the Soviet Union was concluded today in Kabul. Abdol Karim Shadan, chief justice of the Republic of Afghanistan, and S.V. Alegovich, first deputy [words indistinct] of the Soviet Union signed the protocol on behalf of their governments.

According this agreement, delegations from the Supreme Court of the Republic of Afghanistan and the High Court of the Soviet Union as well as various legal documents relevant to the activities of the two countries' courts in various legal matters, will be exchanged.

Pohand Wadi Safi, minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism; Dr. Gholam Sakhi Mason, chairman of the Lawyers Association of the Republic of Afghanistan and leader of delegation of this association; and members of the Soviet Lawyers Association delegation were present when this protocol was concluded.

Delegation Meets Afghan Officials

LD1708101491 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0429 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Kabul, Aug 16, BAKHTAR—Kamalluddin Ishaqzai, chairman of the national mediatory commission of Afghanistan "between the government and opposition" met a delegation of the Soviet lawyers headed by S.V. Alegovich, deputy of the supreme court of that country, on Aug 15, 1991.

BAKHTAR correspondent reported, Ishaqzai informed that delegation about the efforts of the commission aimed at cessation of war and insurance of peace all over the country and maintaining contacts with the government opposition groups.

The sides exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.

Gen. Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi minister of state security and M.S. Saylani minister of Islamic Affairs and trust properties met the same delegation and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.

The delegation has arrived lately in Kabul at the invitation of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] Lawyers Association.

[Kabul BAKHTAR in English at 0431 GMT on 17 August adds in a report dateline Kabul, 16 Aug: "Dr. Raz Muhammad Paktin, minister of the interior of RA, met the lawyers' delegations of the Soviet Union who have come under the chairmanship of Sokalo Valentin Alegovich deputy chairman of Russian Supreme Court to Kabul, in his office today. During the meeting in which the members of the Interior Ministry were also present, they discussed some of their problems and exchanged views regarding matters of mutual interest."]

National Mediatory Commission Views Activities

LD1708100591 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 16 BAKHTAR—The Government and Opposition National Mediatory Commission of Afghanistan held a press conference in order to explain its activities in regard to the implementation of peace, cessation of war in the country today. BAKHTAR correspondent reported at the outset of the conference Kamaluddin Ishaqzai, chairman of the Commission gave information about the achievements and the activities of the commission inside and outside the country, the contacts of the Commission with the members of the commanders of opposition. He added nowadays commission has 65 rpt 65 members in the centre and provinces, that have relations with opposite sides in order to solve the conflicts by mutual understandings.

Afterwards the executive board of the commission replied the questions that were raised by the local and foreign journalists.

According to another report Sayed Sharafuddin Sharaf general attorney of RA [Republic of Afghanistan] met Soviet lawyers association delegation presided over by S.V. Alegovich in Kabul today.

During the meeting Sharaf while the deputies of the general attorney were present informed the delegation about the system of attorney RA, composition, authority and duties of attornies as per the constitution of RA. Reciprocally, the head of the delegation set forth information about the process of change in the legislative organs of this country.

Najibollah Stresses Unity To Defeat 'Enemies'

LD1708095591 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0420 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Kabul, Aug 15, BAKHTAR—Najibollah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, received today elders and representatives of Mansal and Totakhai tribes of Paktia Province at the presidential palace here today.

President Najibollah talked about the politico-military situation in the country, the role of influential people and elders in maintaining peace, cessation of war and the establishment of the grounds for understanding among different tribes and nationalities.

The solution of the Afghanistan issue depends on Afghans and it is Afghans who can solve the issue without the interference of aliens, said President Najibollah.

Touching on the heroism of our ancestors for the restoration [words indistinct] country, President Najibollah added that the Afghans under the present conditions are once again faced with a big historical test and can foil the intrigues of the enemies by getting united and thus are able to defend and protect successfully the independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

Then a number of tribla chieftains and social personalities of the said people while appreciating President Najibollah's endeavours for cessation of war pledged all their support for foiling enemy plots and securing peace.

Clashes Betweenf Fundamentalist Groups Reported

LD1608220391 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Fierce clashes flared up between the Golboddin and Khalis fundamentalist groups in Khowst.

BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section reported that as a result of these clashes two men from the belligerent parties were killed.

According to another report, four men from the Sayaf group and one man from the Golboddin group were killed and another three men injured as a result of infighting that flared up in Jani Khel district, Paktia Province.

'Arab Advisors' Die in Paktia Combat

LD1608205691 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Texts] Units and sub-units of the Armed Forces have recently subjected to crushing blows the extremists' Satanic hideouts around Paktia Province.

The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section reports that several extremists, including two Arab advisors, were killed and a number injured in this operation. Two of the extremists' arms and ammunition depots were destroyed.

Decree Removes Party Mention in Legal Documents

LD1708200191 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] The Presidency's press office reported to BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] that Esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, in accordance with Article 104 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, approved legislative decree No. 70 dated 1 July 1991 of the Republic of Afghanistan Council of Ministers concerning omission of the words "the Sowr revolution, People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, and primary party organizations" from all legislative documents in force in the country. The decree states that the Republic of Afghanistan Council of Ministers is commissioned to present this legislative decree at the first session of the National Assembly for approval.

Bangladesh

Spokesman's Comments on Events in USSR Reported

BK1908160491 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Dhaka today that Bangladesh is closely following the devleopments in the Soviet Union. Asked to comment on the replacement of President Gorbachev by a State Emergency Committee, he said the Soviet Union has undergone dramatic transformation during his period. The spokesman hoped that the process initiated by Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev will not be disrupted by the latest development.

Moscow Developments Closely Followed

BK1908134691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1322 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 19 (AFP)—Bangladesh praised Monday the reform program of ousted Soviet President

Mikhail Gorbachev and said they hoped it would continue under the new leadership in Moscow.

In a guarded statement, a Foreign Office spokesman noted with praise the "dramatic transformation" of the Soviet Union under President Gorbachev and hoped "the developments would not disturb the process."

"Gorbachev's policy of democratisation of the society, liberalisation of the economy and the process of general restructuring had brought about a totally new orientation to the country," the spokesman said, adding that Dhaka was closely followp events in the Soviet Union.

Foreign Minister Mustafzur Rahman was unavailable for comment.

Rahman, the first Bangladesh foreign minister to visit Moscow in many years, was quoted as saying on his return last month that the trip had brought the two countries closer after 16 years of "dormant" ties.

PRC Special Envoy Arrives for Bridge Opening

Views Bilateral Ties

BK1708160691 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] The Shambhuganj Bridge over Brahmaputra River at Mymensingh built with Chinese assistance will be opened to traffic tomorrow. The prime minister is expected to inaugurate the bridge. The bridge has been constructed at a cost of over 78 crore taka of which China gave about 34 crore taka. The bridge is 464.30 meter long and 14.40 meter wide and will make land communication easier between Dhaka and Greater Mymensingh.

A special envoy of the Chinese Government and vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Madame Chen Muhua, is now in Dhaka to attend the bridge opening ceremony. Talking to newsmen on arrival at the airport today, she said it is a matter of great gratification that the second bridge built with Chinese assistance is being inaugurated in Bangladesh. Madame Muhua, who heads an 11-member delegation, described the Shambhuganj Bridge as a symbol of growing Bangladesh-China economic and technological cooperation. She said the bridge is another landmark of deep friendship between Dhaka and Beijing. China and Bangladesh, she said, are close neighbors and are (?duty bound) to help each other in different fields.

The first Bangladesh-China friendship bridge constructed over river Burhi Ganga in Dhaka was commissioned in 1989.

Khaleda Zia Inaugurates Bridge

BK1808131491 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] The Shambhuganj Bridge over Brahamaputra River at Mymensingh built with Chinese assistance has been formally opened to traffic. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia inaugurated the bridge at a ceremony Sunday [18 August]. The bridge has been constructed at a cost of 78 crore taka of which China gave about 34 crore taka. The bridge 64.30 meter long and 13.40 meter wide will make land communication easier between Dhaka and the northern region of Mymensingh and Kishoreganj and Netrokona district.

The special envoy of the Chinese Government and vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Madame Chen Muhua, was among others who attended the inaugural ceremony.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has expressed the hope that the existing cooperation between Bangladesh and China will further increase in all sectors, including social and economic fields. The prime minister was talking with the visiting special envoy of the Chinese Government and the vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Madame Chen Muhua, in Dhaka Saturday. She said the two bridges constructed with Chinese assistance will remain as the [words indistinct] of future friendship between the two countries. The first Bangladesh-China friendship bridge constructed over the river Buriganga in Dhaka was commissioned in 1989. The third one with Chinese assistance will be constructed on the Mahananda River in Chapai Nawabganj.

Madam Chen said her country is ready to support Bangladesh in all possible ways in its development efforts. She also thanked the people and Government of Bangladesh for providing medicine for the flood victims in China.

Envoy Meets Acting President

BK1908140891 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] The visiting Chinese delegation called on the Bangladesh acting president Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed in Dhaka Monday [19 August]. Led by the special envoy of Chinese Government, Chen Muhua, the delegation discussed with the acting president matters of mutual interest. The delegation described the Burhi Ganga and Shambhuganj bridges constructed with Chinese assistance as embodiments of Sino-Bangladesh friendship. The leader of the delegation expressed the hope that relations between Bangladesh and China would continue to strengthen further to the mutual benefit of the two nations.

The acting president recalled the historical relations between the two countries and appreciated the help and assistance rendered by China for development efforts of

Bangladesh. Justice Shahabuddin conveyed his warm greetings to the president and the people of China.

The visiting delegation from China's national machinery, import and export and design institute says the Boro Pukuria coalmine in Dinajpur is economically and technically attractive. The members of the delegation led by (Xiang Zhu) were exchanging views with (Petro Bangla) officials in Dhaka Sunday. They said coal extraction from Boro Pukuria mine will not be a difficult task and it will be possible at a lower cost. Earlier, during a visit to the coal mine site [they] said there is a huge reserve of coal at Boro Pukuria which would meet Bangladesh's requirements for 40 to 50 years.

Army Chief Leaves for Malaysia 17 Aug

BK1708160091 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] The chief of army staff, Lieutenant General Mohammad Nuruddin Khan, left Dhaka today for Malaysia on a goodwill visit. He is leading a military delegation. Besides meeting the defense minister and services chief, General Nuruddin will visit military training institutions and other establishments in Malaysia.

Opposition Leader Demands Autonomy for Radio, TV

BK1708082291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0446 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 17 (AFP)—A top opposition leader in Bangladesh has demanded autonomy for the state-run television and radio following a row over the screening of a special program, press reports said here Saturday.

Awami League Cheif Sheikh Hasina Wajed told a party meeting Friday that the state-run media were projecting "untrue and misleading stories about the country's liberation struggle with the evil motive to confuse the people," adding that the two organisations should be made autonomous and credible to people.

The latest row over television and radio erupted after the government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia decided not to broadcast a special program on Wajed's assassinated father and Bangladesh's founding leader, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Thursday, the 16th anniversary of his death.

The government reportedly agreed to broadcast a discussion program on Rahman's life and work, but cancelled it at the last moment without giving any reason.

Wajed, who heads the opposition in parliament, said that although democracy had been restored in Bangladesh through a mass upsurge which resulted in the fall of the eight-year-old government of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad last year, radio and television continued to favour the government.

The three major political alliances, including Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the Awami League, agreed during their anti-Ershad campaign that both television and radio would be made autonomous to ensure that they represented people with different political backgrounds.

India

Prime Minister Rao on Gorbachev's Ouster

BK1908160091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, has said that the ouster of the Soviet president, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, is a warning to the leaders who chalk out plans to take each step cautiously. He was addressing a national convention of the Youth Congress-I workers in New Delhi today on the occasion of the 47th birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi. He recalled the close relationship between Rajiv Gandhi and Mr. Gorbachev and mentioned their contributions for the improvement of the lot of their people.

The Central Committee of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] described the ouster of Mr. Gorbachev and the declaration of an emergency in the Soviet union as a significant and major political development. In a statement in New Delhi the Politburo of the party expressed the hope that the Soviet Union will be able to overcome the present crisis, defend the unity and integrity of the country and continue to advance on the path of socialism.

The leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, Mr. L.K. Advani, urged the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, to take parliament and the people into confidence for an evaluation of the new developments. He said that the changes in the Soviet union are a setback to a detente.

The former minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Natwar Singh, said the developments in the Soviet Union can be a major destabilizing factor in the world.

A former external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, termed the new developments as ominous.

Situation Closely Monitored

BK2008092891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] The government is constantly monitoring the developments in the Soviet Union and is maintaining a close touch with the situation. Making a suo moto statement on the political situation in that country, the external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, told the Lok Sabha today that New Delhi has received a communication from the acting Soviet president, Mr. Gennadiy Yanayev, that an emergency is introduced for

six months. Mr. Solanki said India attaches great importance to its relations with the Soviet Union and the political events in that country are of vital interest.

Pakistani Foreign Secretary Continues Visit

Meets Prime Minister Rao

BK1908150091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] India today made it clear that though it fully reciprocates the desire of the Pakistan Government to work with sincerity and earnestness to resolve bilateral problems, such sentiments should be reflected in practical steps. The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, told the Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, when he called on him in New Delhi today that it is necessary to reflect the new attitudes in a manner in which problems are dealt with at international fora. Mr. Narasimha Rao expressed his appreciation for the gesture of his Pakistani counterpart in sending an envoy. He said India is equally willing to help resolve all pending problems across the table.

Mr. Shaharyar Khan, who is in the capital as a special envoy of Mr. Nawaz Sharif, conveyed a message to Mr. Narasimha Rao from his prime minister.

The Pakistan foreign secretary had a meeting with the external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, also.

Meets Defense Minister Pawar

BK2008110491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] India today reiterated its commitment to continuing efforts for the solution of all issues with Pakistan through bilateral negotiations in terms of the Simla Agreement. This was conveyed to the foreign secretary of Pakistan, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, when he called on the defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, in New Delhi this morning. Mr. Pawar expressed the hope that Islamabad's approach as conveyed by the special envoy would be reflected on the ground, especially in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. This, he said, will create the right atmosphere after which further steps could be taken for establishing good-neighborly relations between the two countries. Earlier, Mr. Khan called on the foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey.

Pakistani Involvement in Punjab, Kashmir Noted

Minister Cautions Pakistan

BK1708041891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] India has cautioned Pakistan that its continued support to terrorism in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir will have a destabilizing effect in the entire region. In an interview broadcast on AIR's [All India Radio] Spotlight program last night, the external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, asked Islamabad to abandon its negative approach. He said India is committed to reduce tension with Pakistan and lay the foundation of friendly relations with it. He pointed out that all differences between the two countries can be resolved bilaterally and peacefully under the Simla Agreement. In reply to a question, the minister said that the agenda of the meeting with the Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, who arrives in New Delhi tomorrow, is not known to the Indian side so far.

Welcoming the developing links between the East and the West, Mr. Solanki affirmed that it will not stand in the way of India having mutually beneficial relations with both the United States and Soviet Union. The external affairs minister clarified that any economic relations with South Africa will only be considered when India is convinced that the process of dismantling apartheid has become a reality.

Pakistan Said Creating War Hysteria

BK1908095291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] In the Lok Sabha, members cutting across party lines expressed grave concern over the war hysteria sought to be created by the Pakistan prime minister over the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Drawing attention of the house to an interview given by Mr. Nawaz Sharif to an American news magazine, they said no Pakistan leader had spoken so blatantly about the possibility for war as he has done. They also expressed fears of a deep-rooted conspiracy to whip up war psychosis. Raising the issue, the leader of the house, Mr. L.K. Advani, and other members also referred to Islamabad bringing the issue before the Organization of Islamic Conference and said this is against the spirit of the Simla Agreement. They said the situation in Kashmir is a direct result of the politics of murder mayhem instigated from across the border.

Editorial on Links to Militants

BK1608095891 Delhi PATRIOT in English 31 Jul 91 p 4

[Editorial: "What Gen Beg Meant"]

[Text] In an interview to a leading Urdu daily of Pakistan, Amanullah Khan, leader of one of the factions of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front [JKLF], has made certain revealing statements, which explain, among other things, some contradictions in secessionist activities in Kashmir. It throws light on the course of the proxy war against India Pakistan is apparently intensifying. Amanullah Khan's information is partly well-known. However, a deeper study of what he has said would explain how terrorism in the Valley has become an important weapon the Pakistani military and political establishment is able to use against India. The wave of kidnappings and infiltration of trained militants from Pakistan, with the onset of summer, apart from the

regular skirmishes on the Line of Actual Control and in the Kerand sector of north-west Kashmir, reflect a plan to step up this warfare Pakistani military-political establishment. Despite the escalation of violence and abductions, secessionism has failed to achieve its aims. In spite of setbacks, the State administration remains firmly in control. The ongoing propaganda offensive in Pakistan, the outcry over human rights violations to dubious organisations like the Kashmir-American Council, with confirmed linkages with terrorist groups, by some US State Department officials and prominent politicians in West European countries have been unsuccessful endeavours. In so far as secessionism has acquired some following in the Valley it is in part attributable to past failures of the political system as it had evolved in the State. Pakistani army chief Mirza Aslam Beg, who will be retiring on August 16 has launched a virtual war-like campaign against India. He spoke of "war clouds". The General's rantings are meant to send certain signals to the terrorist bands and infiltrators who have the task of softening up north-west India. Gen Beg's statement, since he is to retire soon, can be conveniently repudiated by Islamabad diplomats as his personal estimate. Gen Beg nonetheless would be taken seriously by the infiltrators who have been sent across the borders. It is thus a dual-purpose pronouncement. In the changed global framework, without the US big-brother's permission, Pakistan may not openly commit its military to a warfare across the Line of Actual Control. This is a reality Gen Beg cannot be unaware of. Amanullah Khan has said that Ziaul Haq's government had initially backed the JKLF. "Independence" ostensibly was then the JKLF's goal. However Islamabad does not encourage even notional independence and prefers the Jamaat-spawned groups which openly want incorporation of Jammu and Kashmir in Pakistan. The latter are backed by the regime of Mr Nawaz Sharif. They also had the support of Benazir Bhutto. Several of these new groups, such as the Hizbul Mujahideen, are offshoots of the Jamaat-i-Islami. Their sole aim is to make Kashmir a part of 'Islamic' Pakistan. With Kashmiri opinion becoming weary of the ongoing violence, disturbances in the occupied Kashmir after the recently held "rigged" elections, and with the call for 'Azadi' [independence] becoming a demand for ceding Kashmir to Pakistan, the mentors of terrorist groups in Kashmir obviously consider it necessary to assure the secessionists that there would be no let-up in Pakistan's interventionist policy towards the Indian state.

BJP Decries Pakistan's Nuclear Weapons Acquision

BK1808155691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has criticized the center for not having a clear-cut policy to deal with the terrorists and secessionists in Kashmir. In a joint statement in New Delhi today, the party vice president, Mr. Sundar Singh Bhandari, Mr. Sikandar Bakht, and Mr. K.R. Malkani expressed concern over the acquision of nuclear weapons by Pakistan.

Maldivian' President Arrives in New Delhi 18 Aug

BK1808102291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] The president of the Maldives, Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, arrived in New Delhi today on a three-day official visit. He was received at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki. Mr. Gayoom told our correspondent that his visit to India is part of the consultative process that he has initiated with the leaders of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] member countries. Mr. Gayoom said it will also provide an opportunity to discuss bilateral matters with Indian leaders.

Stresses Need for SAARC Free Trade

BK1908161291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] India and the Maldives have stressed on the necesssity for more free trade and commerce among the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries. The issue came up for discussion during the meeting between the president, Mr. Venkataraman, and the visiting president of the Maldives, Mr. Abdul Maumoon Gayoom in New Delhi today. Mr. Gayoom apprised Mr. Venkataraman about his discussions with the leaders of the SAARC countries for making the organization more effective. He also thanked India for the prompt assistance given to his country for the relief operations following the recent sea storm.

Later, Mr. Venkataraman, hosted a lunch in honor of the visiting dignitary.

The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, called on the visiting president. Both the leaders expressed satisfaction at the smooth progress being made in the bilateral relations. Mr. Narasimha Rao told Mr. Gayoom that India is ready to extend its support to the Maldives in whatever sphere it decides to seek.

Rao Reaffirms Commitment to Rajiv Gandhi Policies

BK2008101091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has said although the country is committed to friendship and goodwill with all countries, it will fight back if any war is forced on us. He was addressing a function in New Delhi today to mark the 47th birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi as sadbhavna divas [day of goodwill]. He said the country will not deviate from the policies followed by Rajiv Gandhi to foster friendship and goodwill with other countries, including its neighbors. Mr. Rao called upon the people to emulate the ideals of Rajiv Gandhi who dedicated his life to strengthening national integrity. Earlier, the people gathered at the function took a pledge to strengthen unity and harmony irrespective of caste, creed, religion, and language. They also pledged to

resolve all differences through dialogue and constitutional means without resorting to violence.

Prime Suspects of Gandhi Assassination Found Dead

BK2008034091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] In Karnataka, five LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants were found dead when the police stormed their hideouts at Konan Kunte village on the outskirts of Bangalore early this morning. The dead included two women. The bodies are yet to be identified. Further details are awaited.

A message just received says the prime accused in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, Sivarasan and Subha, have been found dead. They were among the seven LTTE militants recovered dead when the police stormed their hideouts at Konan Kunte village on the outskirts of Bangalore early this morning.

Former Minister's Relative Kidnapped in Punjab

BK2008093291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] In Punjab, a close relative of the former union home minister, Mr. Buta Singh, was kidnapped from Amritsar this morning. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, two car-borne militants kidnapped Mr. Ranjit Singh, a student of the 10th class, from outside his school.

Militants Ambush Police Party in Punjab

BK1908050291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] In Punjab, three militants have been killed and nine arrested in separate incidents since last evening. According to an official spokesman, militants ambushed a police party escorting arrested militants in the Jullundur Sadar area early this morning. In the ensuing encounter, one under custody militant and another militant were killed. In Amritsar District, one militant committed suicide by consuming poison when cornered by a police party in Bhikkiwind area.

Army, Militants Continue Fighting in Kashmir

Army Takes Over Sopore

BK1608160691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1555 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Sopore, India, Aug 16 (AFP)—The Army took over this curfew-bound apple town in Kashmir on Friday after a bloody gunbattle between Muslim militants and federal forces left at least 27 dead.

Soldiers armed with machineguns were in position as the military took administrative control a day after the Indian Independence Day shootout, which also left 40 wounded in the town 60 kilometres (36 miles) from Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital.

Kashmiris observed a valley-wide general strike to mourn the 19 alleged militants killed along with eight members of the Border Security Force (BSF).

The 40 wounded included 10 civilians caught in the crossfire.

The gunbattle flared on the third day of an indefinite curfew in Sopore, known as much for its apple orchards as for its role as a citadel of Muslim militants waging a bloody campaign for Kashmir's secession.

The curfew had been called amid fears of anti-Indian demonstrations by the Hizbul-Mujahideen, a militant group which favours Kashmir's accession to neighbouring Pakistan, during Thursday's celebrations.

Witnesses said the firefight, which they said created "war-like scenes," erupted after Muslim militants burned the Indian flag. Paramilitary troops brought down one militant with gunfire, sparking the battle, the witnesses said.

BSF troopers used five-centimetre (two-inch) mortars during the battle, which one senior official said was the longest security forces had fought against moslem militants during the three-year-old secessionist campaign.

"It is for the first time that an encounter lasted more than 12 hours," the official said.

Empty mortar shells littered the streets of Sopore, many of whose residents fled in terror of an imminent crackdown by security forces.

One resident who stayed behind, 77-year-old Ali Mohammed, alleged the BSF used him (word indistinct) his nine-year-old grandson as a shield against the militants.

He accused the troopers of killing in cold blood a 44-year-old mentally retarded man, who was wounded in the gunbattle.

Some 4,000 to 5,000 men, women and children fled either through farms or waded across a river during the bloody shootout, a fact confirmed by BSF Intelligence Chief Ashok Patel in New Delhi.

"We saw women and children wading across the river when they (militant) started to fire at us all over the town," Patel said.

Army and paramilitary soldiers broke into houses and orchards for corpses or wounded militants in hiding Friday, and handed over bodies of the dead to their wailing relatives.

"The town was a militant fortress and they were firing from houses, terraces, bunkers and even garbage cans," said a BSF officer, estimating that thousands of rounds of ammunition had been spent in the gunbattle.

Spokesmen for the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) and the Hizbul-Mujahedeen said they had jointly fought the BSF.

The groups are two of several hardline moslem militant organisations fighting for the secession of Kashmir, India's only moslem-majority state, in a violent drive which has cost hundreds of lives since gathering momentum early last year.

Kashmiris observed a strike in the valley Friday to protest the Sopore deaths.

Shops and businesses in the valley reopened in the morning after being shut on the holiday, but closed almost immediately in protest as news of the security action in Sopore spread.

The strike paralysed inter-district transport services, while attendance at government offices in Kashmir was thin because of a separate work stoppage by employees mourning the death of a union leader in a road accident.

Group Says 16 Dead in Sopore

BK1708112891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1055 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Srinagar, India, Aug 17 (AFP)—Thirty-three people were killed in the Indian independence day firefight between security forces and Muslim militants in Kashmir, and 16 victims were civilians, an anti-Indian group said Saturday.

The Hizbul Mojahedin, thought to be the most powerful secessionist group in the troubled valley, said civilian victims killed in the crossfire Thursday in the apple town of Sopore included two women and three children.

Abdul Majid Dar, general secretary of the outlawed organisation, told AFP that somewhere in the valley nine militants and eight soldiers of the paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) were also killed.

He alleged that the BSF and the central reserve police force had fired indiscriminately with mortar guns in and around the town, 60 kilometres (36 miles) from here in northern kashmir.

Dar said the battle was provoked by the unfurling of Indian flags on government buildings used as barracks for federal troopers which "our armed forces simply resisted and protested."

His version contradicted previous reports that the fire-fight occurred after militants raised Pakistani flags in the apple-growing town in defiance of a curfew.

Dar said about 7,000 people had fled Sopore in fear of an imminent crackdown by government forces, whom Muslim militants have often accused of persecuting innocent civilians.

The Hizbul Mojahedin favours the secession of Kashmir from India and its accession to Pakistan, which claims the territory as its own in a dispute that has twice taken the two neighbours to war.

Dar said the group on Saturday organised widely attended meetings at several places in the Kashmir Valley to mourn Pakistan President Ziaul Haq on the third anniversary of his death and pledged to intensify its anti-Indian struggle.

The Hizbul, he said, was committed to "all sorts of sacrifice to achieve our basic objective and goal" to force a plebiscite to decide whether Kashmiris want to stay in India or go to Pakistan or favour independence.

For a third consecutive day, Kashmir was crippled by an anti-Indian general strike sponsored by the group that shut all shops and businesses, hotels and restaurants, schools and colleges and took transport off the roads.

The strike was called to protest Indian independence day celebrations Thursday and extended to mourn the Muslim militants and civilians killed in Sopore.

The violent secessionist campaign in Kashmir, the only Muslim-majority state in overwhelmingly Hindu India, has cost hundreds of lives since gathering momentum early last year.

India has accused Pakistan of fuelling the campaign by arming and training the militants, a charge Islamabad denies while declaring moral support for the separatist drive, which it calls a legitimate struggle for self-determination.

9 'Militants', 1 Soldier Killed

BK1808160691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] In Kashmir valley, nine militants and one security personnel were killed in separate incidents in the last 24 hours. Eight militants were killed in an encounter in the five km border belt today. Security forces recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition from them. One militant was killed in an encounter with the security forces in Badgom area, while a security personnel died in militant firing at (Gurlal Langet) yesterday.

Assam Extremist Bases Said in Bangladesh, Burma

BK1708090191 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr. M.M. Jacob, has said that the government has definite information that ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] has bases in neighboring Bangladesh and Myanmar [Burma]. He was talking to newsmen in Guwahati after reviewing the law and order situation in Assam with the state governor and the chief minister. Mr. Jacob said ULFA is also maintaining links with other extremist organizations. He said the External Affairs Ministry has already

taken up the matter with Bangladesh and Myanmar. The minister said the center will take all measures to prevent infiltration of foreign-trained terrorists into India. He hoped that the problem will be resolved soon and peace restored in the state.

Reportage on Detainees, Hostage Swap in Assam

BK1808101491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] The Assam chief minister, Mr. Hiteshwar Saikia, has reaffirmed that the remaining ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] detainees would be released if the extremists first free their hostages. Talking to newsmen at Silchar, Mr. Saikia said the general amnesty granted to ULFA was conditional. He said that only those against whom no specific criminal cases are pending are being freed. Mr. Saikia said that police and administrative machinery in the state have been strengthened to deal with the extremists.

Police Seize Large Quantity of Explosives

BK1808154491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1820 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 16 (AFP)—A large quantity of unauthorised explosives were seized by police as they were being transported to an unknown destination by truck in the Western border state of Rajasthan Friday, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

Police were quoted as saying the explosives included 9,000 gelatin sticks, 35,000 detonators, 4,000 electronic detonators, and an unspecified number of coils of safety fuse.

Two unidentified suspects were arrested after the explosives were seized from a truck intercepted by police in the desert state's Bhilwara district, police quoted by the news agency from Jaipur, Rajasthan's capital, said.

BJP Leader: Uttar Pradesh To Pass Temple Bill

BK1808130491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has demanded a thorough probe into the activities of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in the country. Speaking to newspersons in Bangalore today, the party president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, also demanded that the center should inquire into the alleged nexus between the LTTE and the separatist forces in Tamil Nadu.

Dr. Joshi said the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh will bring in a legislation for the construction of a temple at Ayodhya, if a negotiated settlement is not reached. He said the dialogue for an amicable settlement to the Ayodhya issue is progressing.

Group Demands Uttar Pradesh Government Dismissal

BK1808101691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] The president of the Akali Dal-Master Tara Singh group, Jatthedar Rajpal Singh, has demanded dismissal of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] government in Uttar Pradesh for its alleged harassment of Sikhs in the Terai region. He told newsmen in New Delhi that he has also demanded investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation into the recent killings of three Sikhs in the area.

Police Unearth Communication Center in Tamil Nadu

BK1808100491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] The Tamil Nadu police has unearthed a LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eslam] communication center at a village in Tiruchirapalli District. The state police chief, Mr. S. Sripal, told newsmen in Madras that a police party yesterday raided a house in Chettipalayam village and found a LTTE militant transmitting messages through a powerful wireless set. On seeing the police, the LTTE man attempted to swallow a cyanide capsule but was arrested by alert policemen before he could do so. The police also recovered documents and special coins minted by the LTTE. This was the second time in a fortnight the Tamil Nadu police unearthed the LTTE communication network.

Janata Dal To Seek Impeachment of Election Chief

BK1608161091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] The Janata Dal has decided to bring a motion of impeachment against the chief election commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan, in the current session of parliament. The party vice president and deputy leader in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, told All India Radio correspondent in New Delhi today that a delegation of the party will soon meet the president, Mr. Venkataraman, to protest against the role of the chief election commissioner during the recent elections, especially in Bihar. Meanwhile, leader of the opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, has also urged the prime minister to take immediate steps to remove Mr. Seshan.

Janata Dal Leader Warns of Party Break Up

BK1908044491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] The Janata Dal leader, Mr. Ajit Singh, has said he does not have any differences with Mr. V.P. Singh. He has, however, warned that if any disciplinary action is taken against him the party will break. Talking to newsmen in Patna, Mr. Ajit Singh said he has no personality clash with the party president, Mr. S.R. Bommai. The only thing he wants is to strengthen the

party organizational structure and implementation of the resolutions passed at the Puri convention of the party.

Congress-I Organizational Election Schedule

BK1708161091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] The schedule for the Congress-I organizational elections has been announced. Giving details, the party general secretary, Mr. H.K.L. Bhagat, said the election which is being held after a gap of 19 years is aimed at decentralization and democratization of the party. The process gets under way on the 30th of this month with the publication of the draft rolls of primary and active members. Elections of office-bearers of primacy and block units will be held during the last week of November and those of the district and state units in the second half of December. The returning officer for the election of the Congress-I president will be appointed on the 30th of December. The schedule for elections in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu will be announced later as membership rolls in these states are not complete. Mr. Bhagat said that there are 2.5 crore primary and about 10 lakh active members of the party.

Planning Commission Reconstituted, Members Named

BK1708130891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] The Planning Commission has been reconstituted. The new members are: Dr. Chitra Naik, Director of the Institute of Education, Pune; Dr. D. Swaminathan, former member of the Planning Commission and former vice chancellor of the Jawaharlal Nehru Technical University, Hyderabad; Dr. C. Rangarajan, deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India; Dr. S.Z. Qasim, former secretary of the ocean development [department] and vice chancellor of the Jamia Millia University; Professor G.S. Bajaj, cardiologist at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences; Dr. Jayant Patel, director of Institute of Rural Reconstruction; and Mr. V. Krishnamurthy, former chairman of the Maruti Udyog Limited.

The commission, which is headed by the prime minister, will also have the defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar; the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh; and the agriculture minister, Mr. Bal Ram Jhakhar; as members. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee is deputy chairman of the commission.

Iran

Events in USSR Viewed With 'Care, Sensitivity'

LD1908170391 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] During an extraordinary session of the Supreme National Security Council this evening, chaired by President Hashemi- Rafsanjani and attended by its members, political advisers, and military commanders, the latest news from and developments in the USSR were received and the effects of these developments on international and regional relations were discussed.

During this session it was stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran, in view of its long common borders and extensive ties with the Soviet Union and also in view of the important issues of the region, will watch the recent unexpected developments with care and sensitivity.

Tehran Assesses Latest Developments in USSR

LD1908153191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Central News Unit "Analysis"]

[Excerpts] Concerning the new developments in the Soviet Union, our colleagues in the research group of the Central News Unit have prepared an analysis. In this part of the news report I draw your attention to their special feature.

Hello. Although the depth and magnitude of the developments in the USSR are not yet clear, there are indications that conservatives in the Communist Party and state have decided to put a halt to the developing trend of perestroyka—a policy that has reached a dead end in their eyes. [passage omitted]

Gorbachev's removal from the presidency of the Soviet Union was unexpected for Soviet watchers. Meanwhile, there were many indications pointing to real dangers to Gorbachev's rule and only a few days have passed since Gorbachev's trip to London and his negotiations with the seven industrialized countries and Bush's trip to Moscow during which an important disarmament agreement was reached. It is interesting that Gorbachev's removal comes on the eve of signing the new Union Treaty of the Soviet Union.

A look at those who make up the State Emergency Committee which replaced Gorbachev with Yanayev shows that the members of that committee are mainly conservatives. By conservatives we mean the powerful Communist faction which calls for a return to communist values, a halt to capitalist values, and a halt to the creation of a market economy. It is important to note that Aleksander Yakolev, Gorbachev's high ranking advisor who resigned from his post in the Communist Party a few days ago, immediately warned of a coup d'etat against Gorbachev.

During Gorbachev's rule, which was marked by the reform policies of glasnost and perestroyka, the economic and political crises in the Soviet Union intensified simultaneously. Despite the fact that Gorbachev achieved significant successes in his foreign policy in putting an end to the cold war, recognizing the right of self-determination of former Eastern bloc countries, German reunification, the Soviet troop withdrawal from

Afghanistan and Eastern Europe, and finally halting the arms race—and he reformed the Stalinist political infrastructure in his internal policy and created an open climate on the political scene—he failed in the most important aspect of perestroyka, ie economic reform. Further, glasnost has led to open ethnic conflict and demands for independence from the republics. These developments prepared the ground under the concern of the conservatives who saw that their position was in danger.

In any case, although the nature and depth of the recent development in the Soviet Union is not yet clear, we must note this point: We cannot yet assume that the recent development in the Soviet Union will lead to a return to its Stalinist past since the developments over the past few years in that country have, practically, reduced the chances of this event. Furthermore, the presence of powerful reformers such as Yeltsin and Shevardnadze—and perhaps Gorbachev himself—on the political scene in the Soviet Union may strengthen the possibility of serious resistance to this change.

The point that has interested political observers among these first reports is the expression of concern and surprise by the Americans over some sort of coup d'etat in the Soviet Union. This development, which may lead to major changes in the Soviet foreign policy, has seriously endangered Bush's proposal for a new world order which was based on the assumption of Gorbachev remaining in power in the Soviet Union.

Azerbaijan's Mutalibov Criticizes Gorbachev

LD1908165291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Mr. Mutalibov, president of Soviet Azerbaijan, who visited Iran, gave an interview to a correspondent of the Central News Unit Tabriz Center before leaving our country this afternoon. He confirmed recent developments in the Soviet Union. Criticizing the actions taken during Gorbachev's leadership he said: The past situation will not be repeated.

The Central News Unit Tabriz Center correspondent adds in his report that the situation was normal today along the border strip between Soviet Nakhichevan and eastern Azerbaijan, on the banks of the river Aras, and border crossings at Soviet and Iranian Jolfa took place as usual from the Soviet Union to Iran, in accordance with previous practice.

According to this report, residents of Soviet Nakhichevan who arrived in Iran via Jolfa to visit their relatives this afternoon say that there are rumors in the Soviet Union about the uncertainty of Mikhail Gorbachev's fate.

Views Gorbachev Ouster

LD1908192491 Tehran IRNA in English 1308 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Tabriz, East Azerbaijan Prov. Aug. 19, IRNA—The president of the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan, Ayaz Mutalibov, said here today that the dismissal from office of Gorbachev is "the natural consequence of the policies that had brought chaos into the Soviet Union during the past few years."

In an interview with IRNA he said "we welcome the developments in the Soviet Union," and added that the current political changes in his country are not likely to leave a negative impact on the internal situation in Azerbaijan.

He said, "The developments in the Soviet Union will not affect the Soviet foreign policy and the Soviet foreign policy would continue in its previous trend." Mutalibov arrived here today at the end of his visit to Mashhad, capital of Khorassan Province, northeast of Iran today.

Mutalibov said "despite the developments the relations between Iran and the Soviet Union will continue to develop, and the two nations will find themselves closer together."

As for the Soviet agreements with the Islamic Republic of Iran he said, "Far from damaging the relations between our two countries the current relations will further develop, and exchange visits by border officials will continue to be made by Iranian and Soviet officials."

The president of the Soviet Azerbaijan who arrived in Tehran Friday concluded his visit to the Iranian capital Sunday and after a short stay in Mashhad flew to Tabriz, the capital of East Azerbaijan Province of Iran.

Departs for Baku

LD2008012291 Tehran IRNA in English 1536 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Tabriz (East Azerbaijan), Aug. 19, IRNA—President of the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan, Ayaz Mutalibov, returned to Baku today afer a four-hour stop in this northwestern provincial capital.

Mutalibov, who arrived in Tehran Friday, described his talks with Iranian officials as fruitful, saying during his stay he had signed two important agreements on expansion of cultural and social relations between Tehran and Baku.

He said "recent developments in the Soviet Union will not have any effects on implementation of these agreements. Rather mutual ties will further expand," he said. He was referring to the removal of President Mikhail Gorbachev from power this morning. Earlier in an interview with IRNA, Mutalibov welcomed the new developments in the Soviet Union.

Soviet Azerbaijan Stops Normal Broadcasting

LD1908184291 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] The Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan stopped its normal programs, and unprofessional announcers are in charge of reading statements and domestic news.

Efforts To Contact USSR by Phone 'Fruitless'

LD1908185391 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report from Tabriz, the situation along the border between Soviet Nakhichevan and the east Azerbaijan province—on the banks of the river Aras—was normal today. Border crossings also continued between Iranian Jolfa and the Soviet Union as usual and in accordance with previous practice.

At the same time, our correspondent reports that in the wake of the recent developments in the USSR all efforts to make contact with that country by telephone or telex remain fruitless. It is impossible to contact Moscow.

Soviet Embassy diplomats in Tehran have so far refrained from making any comments on the internal situation in the USSR.

The Central News Unit reports that the Persian Service of Baku radio began as usual at 1530. Without any introduction the radio said: Since Mikhail Gorbachev is no longer capable of carrying out his presidential tasks because of ill health, his duties have passed to his deputy Gennadiy Yanayev.

Habibi Interviewed on Range of Current Issues

LD2008012591 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1553 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Weekly news conference by First Vice President Hasan Habibi with unidentified correspondents in Tehran on 19 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Mr. Habibi, following the recent remarks by Ayatollah Khamene'i about government departments refraining from extravagance, please tell us what positive steps the government has taken to follow the instructions of His Eminence. My next question is: What was discussed at the meeting between the leaders of the Lebanese Hezbollah and the Iranian authorities in Tehran?
[Habibi] About the first question, regarding this matter, cutting expenditure and refraining from certain luxuries, we shall definitely take some steps. [passage omitted] About what was discussed with the leaders of hezbollah, it was the same as reported by newspapers. That is, in fact, matters pertaining to the revolutionary movement of the Muslim people in Lebanon, issues existing in Lebanon at present, matters relating to Muslims and also issues concerning the so-called peace conference in the region and the future of the Muslims and revolutionary movements, the Palestinian movement, in the region. That was what was discussed.

[Reporter] Excuse me Mr. Habibi, about Security Council resolutions concerning Iraq, do you not think that if this trend becomes a norm it might impose a threat to our country? What is the stance of the Islamic Republic on this?
[Habibi] In any event, the United Nations has become involved in the issue of Iraq, has accepted certain responsibilities and, as an international organization, has made certain decisions. Of course, if those decisions threaten the sovereignty of nations and countries the international community should definitely stand against such decisions. In fact, the United Nations should not overstep its duties and authority. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Mr. Habibi, one of the important issues referred to by the esteemed leader in his recent speech was the issue of cultural invasion, stressing that that plot is very dangerous. Since the country's major cultural centers, including the Islamic Guidance Ministry and Voice and Vision [radio and TV], are under government supervision, what method has the government adopted to combat this dangerous trend?
[Habibi] In another session we discussed cultural issues and we informed our dear people of the outcome of what had been discussed by the government in that session. At that session it was discussed that, as a high authority, the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council should supervise cultural issues and set general cultural policies. we discussed the same matter in the cultural committee. The minutes of that committee are ready. I am to send it to the honorable secretary of the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council. [passage omitted] It is true that from the standpoint of its budget and so forth Voice and Vision is somewhat connected to the government. However, it is the esteemed leader who oversees the affairs of Voice and Vision. [passage omitted]

Prosecutor General on Islamic Dress Violations

LD1508144191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0705 GMT 15 Aug 91

[From the "In Step With People, In Line With Officials" program]

[Excerpts] Dear friends, just as we informed you earlier, the guests of this week's program—In Step With People, In Line with Officials—are officials of the Judicial Power who will be replying to your questions. Mr. Musavi-Tabrizi, state prosecutor general; Mr. Mohaqqeq-Damad, head of the State Inspectorate General; Mr. Abbasi-Fard, head of the Administrative Justice Court; and Dr. Mehrpur, judicial deputy to the head of the Judicial Power. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified male caller] I am calling from the province of Chahar-Mahal-e Bakhtiyari. Some of the provinces face problems in confronting bad-hejabi [not wearing

Islamic dress properly or as prescribed by the government]. When the Law Enforcement Forces detain these [women] and deliver them to the judicial authorities it still does not seem to have very much effect. [passage omitted]

[Musavi-Tabrizi] With regard to bad-hejabi. I should let our respected listeners know that I have given my views [on this subject] in the interviews I have given in Tehran or in the provinces. There are two issues which the prosecutor general cannot ever overlook. One concerns narcotics—and the other day when I attended the session of the Consultative Council chaired by his excellency Ayatollah Yazdi, the respected head of the Judiciary, he too agreed: The other issue is bad-hejabi.

Of course, our respected listeners know this, and if they do not, let them know from now on that anyone who rejects the principle of the hejab is an apostate. And the punishment of an apostate under Islamic Law is very clear. The sisters should know that their personalities lie in the hejab. Of course, this is something that should receive attention because, really, women will only find and become aware of their personalities when they are conforming to the Islamic dress—as called for by Islam. Now, I do not say [they must wear] the chador [full-veil], or coat and so on, but [they must wear] that which is Islamic hejab [i.e. no flesh showing save hands and face]. Regarding the issue of bad-hejabi, I remember from the legal standpoint that during the second term, when we were in the Majlis, we passed a law on bad-hejabi as part of the Shari-a punishment laws. And if the officials come across these ladies who do not wear their Islamic dress properly and possibly hurt the feelings of the Hezbollahi forces and families of martyrs, then they should certainly confront them and take them to the courts. The courts then have to act on the basis of the ratified law which is at their disposal. If any of the courts do not take any action then they can write to the state prosecutor general so that we may tend to the case and see which courts do not implement a ruling on bad-hejabi, which has gone through various stages and has been ratified. They should inform us so that we can look into the case. [passage omitted]

Musavi-Tabrizi Expects 'Lies'

LD1708105191 Tehran IRNA in English 0653 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 17, IRNA—Prosecuter General of the country Ayatollah Abolfazl Musavi-Tabrizi here Friday categorically denied reports by Western press quoting him as having said that women failing to observe the Islamic code of dressing in Iran will be executed. Contacted by IRNA Friday aftenoon Ayatollah Musavi said that the Western press had completely distorted his remarks in a radio program aired on Thursday. "Those who do not observe the Islamic dress codes in Iran are not executed and what the Western media have attributed to me are pure lies," he told IRNA. "The long-standing hatred of the Western media towards the Islamic Republic of Iran is known to all and we do not expect otherwise from them (the Western media)," he added.

Says Execution Not Penalty

LD1608220991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Mr. Musavi-Tabrizi, the State prosecutor general, who in a radio program pointed to the campaign against social vices, emphasizing the need for the country's officials to combat this Western phenomonon, in a telephone call to IRNA strongly denied reports published in the Western press alleging that women failing to wear Islamic dress properly [bad-hejabi] will be executed. He said the sentence for improperly dressed individuals in Iran is most certainly not execution, and what was reported by the Western media was sheer mendacity.

* Demonstrations Reported in Various Cities

91AS1344A London KEYHAN in Persian 8 Aug 91 pp 1-2, 9

[Excerpts] The unrest and disturbances that began several weeks ago in Tehran and several other cities and provinces are continuing, and the Islamic Republic's efforts to calm the public, whose protests have even taken the form of anti-regime demonstrations in the large cities and have spread to armed clashes in the border provinces, have gone nowhere.

While the regime, for security reasons, is trying to prevent the publication of news about the public demonstrations and the clashes between its opponents and its oppressive agents, reports coming out of the country through various channels indicate that these incidents are on the increase. [passage omitted] The revolutionary guards tried to stop the attacking crowd [in Si Metri street of Baqerabad in Tehran] with gunfire, but they did not succeed, and they withdrew while firing. During this public uprising four people were killed by revolutionary guard gunfire and tens of people were injured. When the revolutionary guards and the agents of destruction withdrew, the people set fire to 13 automobiles and buldozers left by the police and sheriff's forces, and they continued their anti-regime demonstration until evening. At nightfall suddenly the regime's revolutionary guards attacked Baqerabad again. They pulled hundreds of residents of this poor neighborhood out of their homes and took them to unknown destinations. [passage omitted]

The municipality has received large sums of money to let people build houses illegaly. In the midst of this, another group refused to pay this sum, which is known as "Khod-Yari" [self-help] and as a result the agents of municipality attacked their homes.

In Esfahan

[Passage omitted] For some time the city of Esfahan has been the scene of extensive demonstrations by fed-up people. These demonstrations often lead to clashes with the security forces. This week a detailed report has reached us from one of KEYHAN of London's sources in Esfahan, who personally witnessed the angry public demonstrations in that city on 3 Mordad [25 July]. [passage omitted]

In Baluchestan

The battle continues between the 'security forces' sent by the regime and the Baluchi guerillas, referred to in the regime's propaganda as 'armed insurgents' and 'narcotics smugglers', and in these clashes the regime's forces are taking heavy casualties. Although the regime does not publish reports about these clashes, the funerals reported in newspapers here and there in the country every few days for those killed show something of the extent of the clashes. For example, the newspaper ABRAR reported that on Wednesday 9 Mordad (31 July) funeral services were held in Mazandaran for eight "security forces martyrs from the cities of Qa'emshahr, Gonbad and Bandargaz, who were martyred by dastardly armed insurgents and narcotics smugglers last week in Zahedan." Similar funerals also take place from time to time in other provinces.

In Kordestan

In the severe clashes that took place in the Divandareh area of Kordestan between the revolutionary guards and the Kurdish guerillas, a group of government forces were killed and wounded. On 22 July several columns of revolution guard forces who had been sent to pacify the area and to be stationed at an abandoned post near Divandareh engaged armed elements affiliated with the Democratic Party of Kordestan. In a severe clash that lasted a half hour, the government's forces withdrew, giving up two killed and many wounded. Then with the arrival of eight automobiles full of revolution guard reinforcements, the clashes erupted severely again between the two sides. As a result six more revolution guards were killed and more were wounded. Armed clashes and engagements between various Kurdish groups and the regime's forces continue in scattered parts of Kordestan, but reports on them are censored by the regime.

Arson in the Tehran Bazaar

Following two major fires at the Tehran bazaar which resulted in the destruction of an extensive area of booths and carpet and fabric shops in the Sara-ye Amir section and in the bedroom and home furnishings section of the large market in the capital, saturday this week for the third time there was a terrifying fire in the Tehran bazaar. The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY reports: This time the Sara-ye Ruhi section burned for some time before the firefighters arrived, and 20 fabric shops were burned to ashes. The fires at the Tehran bazaar were set deliberately, and the general manager of firefighting was also detained. A number of people were injured in the Tehran fire and taken to the hospital.

In the fires on the first and second days thousands of valuable carpets, much clothing, upholstered items such as mattresses, cushions and bedroom furniture, and wagon loads of rice were burned and destroyed. The place that burned on Saturday is known as the center of the market to the bazaar people. A number of bazaar merchants told news correspondents: If the third fire had not been extinguished quickly, an irreparable disaster would have taken place. After these fires, Hojjat ol-Eslam Pustinchi, technical deputy of the Iran Insurance Company, announced: Only less than five percent of the shops burned in the recent fires were insured. Pushinchi said: In the first and second fires 400 carpet and clothing shops were consumed by the flames and destroyed. Pustinchi added: Since all of the booths and shops were not insured, it is not easy to estimate the losses, but it is believed that something like eight billion rials in goods were destroyed by the flames.

The aforementioned damage estimate by the hojjat ol-eslam and deputy director of the Iran Insurance Company differs greatly from other reports. On eight Mordad [30 July] the newspaper RESALAT wrote that in the first fire alone (Sara-ye Amir) the damages came to 20 billion tomans.

He criticized the architecture of the Tehran bazaar and said: The buildings of the Tehran bazaar are old and worn out, and the wiring in the market is most unsuitable.

According to the experts, the fire was apparently caused by a short circuit in the Sara-ye Amir sector. Reporters, who came quickly to the scene, reported:

Firemen from the Tehran Fire Department spent seven hours putting out the Sara-ye Amir fire, and those who witnessed the fire saw clearly that the Tehran Municipal Fire Department lacked the necessary advanced equipment to put out the fire. Even their water hoses were ragged and unusable. What made the work of the firefighters difficult was the lack of hydrants at the Tehran bazaar.

In its report on the Sara-ye Amir fire in Tehran, RESALAT wrote: Despite collecting huge sums in taxes and self-help, the municipality has taken no steps to deal with its meager fire-fighting resources, and in this incident the shortage of water and fire-fighting equipment was severely felt.

Bazaar Events Raise Foreign Exchange Rate

After the three big fires at the Tehran bazaar, the price of the rial against foreign currency suddenly changed on the black market. The price of the rial against the pound, which up until these fires and the unrest in various parts of the country was 2,320 rials, jumped to 2,370 rials in the first days of this week. The price of the dollar also

increased from 1,370 rials in recent days to 1,400 rials. Foreign exchange specialists consider this change in rate to be the result of a feeling of insecurity among merchants living in Tehran, especially since the recent fires were reported to be deliberate.

* Tehran, Bahrain Connected by Air

91AS1344B London KEYHAN in Persian 8 Aug 91 p 4

[Text] After the expansion of political relations between the Islamic regime and Bahrain was reported, Gulf Air officials announced that as of early in the month of Aban this year [23 October - 21 November] there will be direct flights between Tehran and Bahrain. Mohammad 'Alam, an official of the Gulf Air Company of Shiraz, announced that as of early in the month of Aban this year this company will make four weekly flights to Bahrain through Tehran and Shiraz. He added that there are already four flights from Shiraz to Bahrain which stop in Qatar. He told reporters that since the Kuwait and Iran Air companies do not fly to Kuwait and Iranians in Kuwait and Kuwaitis living in Iran intend to travel to the two countries, the need was felt to increase the Gulf Air Company's flights, and in this connection there will be several extra flights between Shiraz and Bahrain. At the same time, the Islamic Republic's embassy officials in Bahrain announced that with the facilities provided for the residents of Bahrain, those wishing to travel to the Islamic Republic will be able, after waiting 12 years, to travel to this country to visit the shrines.

* Commentary on Decisiveness of Fourth Majles

91AS1387A Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 9, 16 Jul 91

[9 Jul p 4]

[Text] The election campaign for the fourth Majlis has already started, sooner than expected. Although eight months are left until the elections, influential groups in various parts of the country, especially in the Shahristans (provinces) are already active.

Several reasons exist for the early start of the campaign. But one reason which enjoys especial importance is that certain well-informed observers believe that these will be key elections of great importance. Although there is officially no multi-party system like those in the Western countries, but clearly two major factions exist inside the country. Each of the two factions has its own interpretation of Islamic political, economic and social issues.

These interpretations and consequently the two factions are based on two current axes of the society: 1- Jame' Ruhaniyat Mobarez (Combatant Ulama Society) and 2- Anjoman Ruhaniyun Mobarez (Association of Combatant Ulama). There is great possibility that during elections smaller groups will be formed around these two major ones. Of course each will have its own particular charactristics.

Ruhaniyat Mobarez is known as the "moderates" in the West. They enjoy the support of groups such as Society of Teachers of Qom Theological Seminary (Howzeh Elmieh Qom), which has a large number of influential Ulama and is centered in Qom. Of course the candidates of Ruhaniyat Mobarez, as in the past Majlis elections, will enjoy the support of the Islamic associations of the guilds and the Bazaari community. In general during the past 12 years Tehran's renowned Bazaar has backed mainly this particular group.

A recent example of strengthening of bonds between Bazaar and the Ruhaniyat Mobarez was its Tehran secretary, Ayatollah Mahdavi Kani's speech at the Imam Khomeini Mosque in the Bazaar and the warm welcome afforded by the Bazaari community. In fact one of the principal aims of the gathering was to prepare for the Majlis elections. In view of the common views shared between Ruhaniyat Mobarez and the Bazaaris on economic, such a bond also exists to some extent in the provincial areas.

During the past year the moderate faction has tried to organize its forces in the universities and other cultural centers. But it is hard to expect that this will be realized in the universities, or that such a coalition could actively campaign in these upcoming elections. The new student organization called the Islamic Society of Students is still very young and inexperienced. And moreover it is much less influential than its university student rival group, i.e the Islamic Association of Students, which is present generally in the "Office for Strengthening Unity."

This latter university student group, the "Office for Strengthening Unity," is much more organized and experienced. Moreover, due to the age charactristics and conditions of a university student, his thoughts are more in harmony with those of the radicals. For instance a student can find more in common intellectually with the speeches of leaders of the "Office for Strengthening Unity."

The main policies of the Ruhaniyat Mobarez during the Majlis election campaign in Tehran and the provinces will be as follows:

1- Full obedience to the idea of Velayat-e-Faqih (Guardianship of the Jurisprudent) and belief in the absolute power of Faqih.

2- Support for the government of President Hashemi Rafsanjani, particularly his economic program of decentralization.

3- Victory of Iran, despite the passing away of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeini, especially on the international scene and recent events in the Persian Gulf.

4- Greater participation of the people in economic and social affairs.

5- More active presence of Iran on the international scene and reduction of enmity with certain countries.

[16 Jul p 4]

[Text] In the first part of this article about the key role of the general elections for the fourth Majlis we said that the political group known in the West as the "moderates" is called the Ruhaniyat Mobarez or the Combatant Ulama Society. And we spoke about the tools they use for the campaign which is still eight months in the future, as well as the smaller influential groups that support the Ruhaniyat Mobarez.

The opposite group, known as the "hardliners" or "radicals", are active within the current administration of the country under the name of Anjoman Ruhaniyun Mobarez or Association of Combatant Ulama. Although this group declared its existence on the eve of the general elections for the third Majlis, however the members of its central council were well-known personaities who during the past 12 years held important posts in the government. Though they were not as well-organized as they are today, they acted as a "front."

The radical faction has not been particularly satisfied with the country's political and economic conditions during the past few months and have declared their dissatisfaction particularly with the country's foreign policy and economic policy. The radical faction practically controlled the three branches of the government, i.e the executive, the legislative and the judiciary. But today they have a majority control only over the legislative branch of the government, and even there they are opposed by the Council of Guardians, which is comprised of the opposing faction.

According to well-informed political observers, the Ruhaniyun Mobarez will be supported by the following groups during the forthcoming Majlis elections:

(1) Islamic Association of Students (Office for Strengthening Unity, or "Daftar Tahkim Vahdat").

(2) Islamic Association of Teachers.

(3) Khaneh Kargar (this translated in English into "House of Workers" and is not exactly a workers or labor union of the Western type, but something similar to it).

Of course the above-mentioned three important groups will not necessarily support all the candidates of the Ruhaniyun Mobarez because historical experience has shown that they have had differences over some candidates. However, they will have agreement over the majority of candidates.

Of the three, the Office for Strengthening Unity ("Daftar Tahkim Vahdat") is qualitatively important. It can give the role of election campaign propaganda to university students, with which it is affiliated, and thus disseminate its ideas among the young generation. The "Khaneh Kargar" and the Islamic Association of Teachers are important quantitatively, particularly the former group.

The following will be the main points of the hardline faction during its election campaign:

1- They will express their concern at the removal of certain companions of the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeini from some important posts of the country. They will stress that the "Imam's Line" should not be forgotten and the principles determined by the Founder of the Islamic Republic should be preserved and maintained.

2- They will criticize the government's economic policies, and concentrate on the issue of inflation and high prices and claim that the "open door" policies and privatization of the economy has been the cause of inflation.

3- They will criticize the government's foreign policy and state that we should not improve relations with the West. They will moot the issue of danger of the U.S. and West Europe for the country's independence among the masses of the people.

4- They will lay stress on the issue of freedom of criticism, republicanism and respect for the people's views.

In order to propagate its views more extensively among the people, the radical faction has recently started two Persian-language national dailies (one morning edition and one evening edition) entitled "Salam" and "Jihan Islam" (Worls of Islam). "Salam" is considered the official organ of the Ruhaniyun Mobarez and "Jihan Islam" also follows the same line of policy.

Political observers of the election issues believe that in addition to the above-mentioned matters, two specific persons will play a very important role in the elections, particularly in the provinces: the Friday prayers leaders, and provincial governors.

These observers believe that the Friday Imams enjoy a very high influence over the masses of voters, and at present the prayers leaders are of the moderate faction. The provincial governors will also play a very important role due to their sensetive positions as supervisors of the elections, the same observers state. At present the governors are mainly of the hardline faction.

In the belief of the some observers, many of the provincial governors and governors-general apponited when Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Mohtashami was interior minister, still retain their posts.

Now we should wait and see what results the future weeks and months will bring. Unless unpredictable incidents occur, there will be a severe competion during these Majlis elections.

It should not be forgotten that events in Middle Eastern societies are quite unpredictable. As an example we can mention the recent elections to the Assembly of Experts, which were to some extent boycotted by the radical faction and lacked the intensity and fervor of competitive elections.

Nepal & Bhutan

Spokesman—Gorbachev Ouster Not To Damage Ties

BK1908125891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1310 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 19 (AFP)—The replacement of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev by his hardline vice president will have no adverse affect on relations between nepal and the Soviet Union, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Monday.

He said Nepal was studying the situation in the Soviet Union and would comment further at an appropriate time.

Pakistan

Soviet Change Described as 'Internal Matter'

BK1908161491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] The Federal Cabinet reviewed the change in the Soviet Union at its meeting in Islamabad today. It, however, deferred any formal reaction to the development until more facts are known and the situation becomes clear there.

A Foreign Office spokesman has said that Pakistan will continue to pursue its policy of maintaining and further promoting relations based on friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union. When the spokesman was asked to comment on today's situation following the change in the Soviet leadership, he said this is Soviet Union's internal matter. We are closely watching the situation, he added.

Sharif Views Kashmir, Afghan, Nuclear Issues

BK2008063791 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said that it is necessary to resolve the Kashmir problem in accordance with the Kashmiri people's desire to maintain peace and security in the region. In an interview to NEWSWEEK magazine, he said tension is increasing between Pakistan and India due to the Kashmir problem. He said being prime minister, it is his duty to tell India how unhappy he is with the situation. He urged India to allow the Kashmiris to use their right of self-determination according to UN resolutions. Expressing concern over the situation in occupied Kashmir, the prime minister said that the Indian forces are committing all sorts of atrocities there.

In reply to a question on Afghanistan, he said Pakistan wants a peaceful solution to this problem, which is possible. It is his desire that Afghan refugees, staying in Pakistan, return home safely and honorably. The prime minister expressed concern over the Soviet Union's providing continued large-scale assistance to the Kabul regime.

In reply to another question, Nawaz Sharif made in clear that Pakistan's nuclear program is for peaceful purposes and he wants to see the region free from nuclear weapons. He referred to his own agenda to call a meeting of Pakistan, the Soviet Union, India, China, and America to make South Asia a nuclear-free zone.

The prime minister said Pakistan depended on foreign aid in the past, but now it is time for Pakistanis to make efforts to stand on their own feet, create means, and depend on themselves. He said he is advancing the country toward a free-market economy. He wants to sell industries that are operating at a loss and spend these funds on improving the law, public health, and basic infrastructure sectors, which have been ignored.

Replying to a question on the narcotics trade, Nawaz Sharif said that Pakistan is having success in efforts to eradicate it. In reply to another question on the Bank of Credit and Commerce International [BCCI], he called Western information misleading and rejected it. He said that there is no evidence of irregularities in BCCI affairs in Pakistan.

PRC To Work With Islamabad on Nuclear Issue

BK1908160891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] China expressed its willingness to work with Pakistan to help implement Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's proposal for making South Asia a nuclear-free zone. This was stated by Wasim Sajjad, the chairman of the Senate and leader of the Pakistani delegation, on his return to Islamabad from China after paying a five-day visit to that country.

Foreign Secretary Khan Leaves for India 18 Aug

BK1808125291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, left Lahore this afternoon for New Delhi as a special envoy of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. During his three-day stay in New Delhi, he will call on the Indian prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and will deliver a message to him from Pakistan Prime Minister Mr. Nawaz Sharif. He will also meet the Indian external affairs minister and the foreign secretary.

Meets India's Rao 19 Aug

BK1908161691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Khan, now in New Delhi as a special envoy of the prime minister, called on Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao today and delivered Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's letter to his Indian counterpart. The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere. The special emissary expressed Pakistani prime minister's desire for sincere efforts on part of both sides for lasting peace between two countries. He said Pakistan understands that an early serious and constructive dialogue is required for the resolution of all outstanding issues for the fulfillment of the two prime ministers' common desire for a positive change in bilateral relations.

BBC Interview Cited

BK2008114891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Special Envoy of the prime minister and secretary of foreign affairs, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, has said the main purpose of his visit to New Delhi was to remove tension prevailing between India and Pakistan. In a telephone interview with BBC, he said most of our resources and financing has been spent on hostilities against each other. Now when the world is undergoing changes, both Pakistan and India are opposing each other. He said our view is that it is time for both the democratically elected governments to consider coming out of this situation.

16 Killed Outside Gujranwala Special Court

BK1908161891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] According the APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN], 16 people were killed and three wounded in an armed clash between two rival groups in Gujranwala today. The clash took place outside a special court in Gujranwala where the rival groups have come to appear before the court. Nine people died on the spot. The police later chased the murderers, and in the ensuing confrontation, two policemen were killed. Three criminals and two passersby were also killed in this confrontation.

New Army Chief Meets Ishaq Khan, Sharif 17 Aug

BK1708165891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] The new chief of the Army Staff, General Asif Nawaz, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. The president warmly congratulated Gen. Asif Nawaz on assuming the position of chief of the army staff and expressed the confidence that under his leadership, the army would emerge as a still stronger force to defend the country's frontiers.

Gen. Asif Nawaz also called on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif this afternoon and discussed with him matters of national defense. Congratulating him on assuming the command of the Pakistan Army, the prime minister expressed the confidence that under his command the Pakistan Army would not only consolidate its achievement but would rise to even greater heights of professionalism.

On assuming the charge of his office, the chief of the Army Staff Gen. Asif Nawaz in his order today has urged the armymen to rededicate themselves to achieving the highest attainable standard of combat-readiness and preparedness. He said Pakistan is not merely a country but it is an ideology and a belief whose defense is national obligation [words indistinct] duty. It is in fact an act of faith and a true religious duty which requires us to rededicate ourselves to our (?duty), iman, taqwa, and jihad fi sabilillah [faith in God, honesty, and holy war for the sake of God]. Appreciating the role of the army in the aftermath of the Bahawalpur aircrash, Gen. Asif Nawaz said the army was indeed the only institution that could help steer the nation back toward democracy. It performed this task admirably while simultaneously changing its own course toward achieving professional excellence. Gen. Mirza Aslam Beg can rightly feel proud of this role concerning both these aspects.

Gen. Asif Nawaz, while highlighting the smooth progress of the democratic process, made it clear that the army must have nothing to do with politics. The elected representatives will do their job while we concentrate in acquiring even greater professional excellence.

Sharif Views 3d Death Anniversary of Ziaul Haq

BK1708144891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1400 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] The third death anniversary of martyr Mohammad Ziaul Haq was observed today. Addressing a mammoth gathering at his final retreat near Faisal mosque this evening, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said the day is not far off when Pakistan will be the citadel of Islam, Afghanistan and Kashmir will be liberated, and the great sacrifices of the late president will not go in vain. The prime minister reaffirmed his government's determination to enforce Islamic codes in the country to accomplish the ideologies of Pakistan. Paying rich tributes to martyr Ziaul Haq, he said with great sagacity the late president led the country toward its goal and whatever he did for the assistance of Afghan mojahedin and liberation occupied Kashmir will go down in golden letters in history.

The mammoth gathering offered collective prayers for the late president and others who died in the Bahawalpur aircrash.

11 'Special Courts' Set Up for Speedy Trials

BK1808153091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Eleven specials courts have been set up for speedy trials of serious criminal offences in accordance with the 12th constiutional amendment. According to a notification issued in Islamabad today by the Ministry of Law and Justice five special courts have been set up for the Punjab and the Islamabad federal territory, three for Sindh, two for the Northwest Frontier Province and one for Balochitan. [passage omitted giving names of judges comprising special courts]

sri lanka

LTTE Radio Intercepts Reveal Split in Ranks

BK1908132191 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists fired at Balawegaya troops as they were (?returning) in an abandoned terrorist bulldozer at the point between Mullayam and Elephant Pass. The terrorists withdrew after soldiers returned the fire. No casualties were reported. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the Balawegaya troops continued to strengthen the new defense locality of the expanded area of the security forces camp at Elephant Pass. The camp has also been repaired and refurbished. Troops were also clearing the minefields laid by the LTTE as they withdrew.

Meanwhile, official sources said intercepts of clandestine LTTE radio transmissions have revealed a serious split in the terrorist ranks. While the LTTE cadres in the eastern province are refusing to fight against the security forces in the north, the easterners have accused the LTTE leadership of discriminating against them and having used terrorists from Batticaloa and other areas in the eastern province as cannon fodder in the front lines at Elephant Pass. Four LTTE cadres from Batticaloa refused to fight in Jaffna and committed suicide by swallowing cyanide capsules.

UK To Oust Kittu for LTTE Role in Murder

BK1808142391 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 6 Aug 91 p 6

[Editorial: "The Tide Is Turning...."]

[Text] Many Lankans will believe, as we do, that the British decision to require Sathasivam Krishnakumar, better known as Kittu, to leave the United Kingdom by August 7 was influenced more by the LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] role in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination than by his participation in extorting money for Tiger arms purchases, from Tamils living in Britain.

It is very wellknown that the LTTE, not only in Britian but also elsewhere in Europe and in North America, has been terrorising Tamils living in many countries to contribute a very substantial part of their earnings to the "cause". All kinds of pressures have been used for such extortion, including threatening to blow the whistle on those working illegaly in various western countries and harming relatives and families living in the war-torn areas of Sri Lanka.

Western intelligence agencies are only too well aware of the LTTE connection in drug-running and narcotic trafficking. "Narco-terrorism" is now a widely used word: and the LTTE's considerable. Yet, despite all the evidence, some countries have been looking at the Tigers with a not too unfriendly eye.

It certainly must be said to the credit of Britain that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was outspoken in condemning terrorists including the LTTE. She called a spade a spade and for that Sri Lanka must be grateful. However, the Tigers have been able to run offices in various European cities, including London, but the picture now seems to be changing.

The Rajiv Gandhi assassination must influence both events and processes, and Britain's new approach to Kittu's continued residence in that country is a signal that various changes are occurring. Small countries like Sri Lanka always have to live with the fact of life that big countries have much more clout than we do in the matter of inter-State relations.

India will always matter more to most countries of the world than we would if only for the reason that she is a big country with a big market that industrial nations have always coveted. Particularly today, India offers many opportunities to western industry as a result of the upcoming economic liberalisation. Also, India much many more resources than we could ever hope to muster to devote to diplomatic initiatives. [sentence as published]

Be that as it may, the fact that Britain is asking Kittu to leave is all to the good. He is no more likely to have a safe haven in India and may, in all probability, not wish to return to Sri Lanka. he is on record saying he would legally challenge the quit order. The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA said, in a despatch from London on Sudnay, that he is likely to be detained if he defies Home Office orders to leave Britain.

The LTTE maintained a much lower profile than before in its various European lairs after the Gandhi assassination. The initial denials of any involvement in the killing seem pathetically weak in the face of the ever-mounting evidence. The Givers claimed a secret meeting with Gandhi in March, which Congress (I) denied; they tried to use that as proof of innocence on the Gandhi killing. If there were such a meeting, is it not possibel that what Gandhi told them then influenced the decision that he must die?

It is necessary that Sri Lanka synchronises with India's own diplomatic effort to reduce the foreign support the

LTTE obtains in varying measures from different countries. As we have recenlty pointed out in these columns, Indo-Lankan relations today are much better than they have been during the past several years. Hence, mending has been proceeding apace.

New Delhi, no doubt, values the assistance Sri Lankan agencies have given India in the matter of the Rajiv Gandhi assassination investigation. Both countries have good reason to make common cause against the LTTE. Cooperation in this matter would be of mutual benefit to both India and Sri Lanka.

Indian Official Compares Militants to Tamils

BK1808130291 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] India should not have double standards while dealing with terrorists, the chairman of the Research and Applied Military Science Institute of India, Colonel (Daulat Singh) said. Col. (Singh), who is currently in Sri Lanka, delivered a series of lectures organized by a number of voluntary organizations. There should be a uniform yardstick while dealing with the terrorists, whether they are locals or foreigners, he said. He added that basically there was no difference between the Sikh militants in Punjab and the Tamil militants in Sri Lanka. The majority of the people of the community are against these militant movements. Col. (Singh), who himself is a Sikh, predicted that the Sikh separatist movement in Punjab would die very soon. Only a handful of people are engaged in these acts of terror and the peace-loving people will have to rise against them, he pointed out. He said that the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has proved that the security of India and Sri Lanka is not only connected but is also intertwined. Although it was a very sad development, it had resulted in driving home the need for cooperation between the two countries in taking effective action against terrorism, he emphasized. He said that the joint patrolling in the Palk Strait should commence immediately to prevent arms smuggling from Tamil Nadu to the north and east of Sri Lanka.